3
PUMPKIN SCISSORS
Ryotaro Iwanaga

Pumpkin Scissors

Imperial Army State
Section III

by
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North Market Street Graphics

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First published in Japan in 2005 by Kadansha Ltd., Takya

Translatar/adapter: Ikai Hirae
Lettering: NMSG

Contents

Pumpkin Scissors, Volume 3 1

Translation Notes 226

Preview of Volume 4 230

One must think deeply to
become comfortable in
one's skin.

Pumpkin Scissors 3

Ryotaro Iwanaga

Episode 7 Lady with the Scissors — 3
Episode 8 Men of the Pumpkins — 57
Episode 9 Lillipat Army — 119
Episode 10 Trick in Treat — 173

About This Story

The bloody war between the Empire and the Republic of Frost left a deep wound throughout the Empire.

Three years have passed since the cease fire, now known as the Thin Ice Treaty. The Empire is still plagued with starvation and disease while gangs of former soldiers terrorize the populace. The Empire is now fighting another battle to repair the destruction of war. Imperial Army' State Section III was established as a "propaganda" tool to placate the masses. However, the members of Imperial Army State Section III, known as "Pumpkin Scissors," are committed to cutting through the thick skin of corruption and crime to bring justice to the people....

Muzzel Dauler

The head researcher for Captain Institute. She seems to be a heartless woman focused on her research. She's involved with the Invisible Nine project.

Hans

A soldier in unit 908 HTH. He wears full body armor and defies people with his flamethrower. He's been hired as a bodyguard for Mion.

Mion

The president of the public waterworks. He's been overseeing the distribution of water pipes to the refugees living in the sewer system.

Lieutenant Alice Malvin

Born into nobility, she's a straightforward and kind soul. The second lieutenant for "Pumpkin Scissors," she works hard to advance the cause of reconstruction and civil relief for the people.

Corporal Oland

A tower-like giant, he is a [illegible] veteran who re-enlisted into Section III. During the war he was one of the Invisible Nine unit members.

Warrant Officer Oreldol

An officer in Pumpkin Scissors, [illegible] Houdini. He comes across as a mellow, [illegible] guy, but he [illegible] a [illegible] side.

Warrant Officer Machs

He seems to be the most sensible of all the Pumpkin Scissors members. Yet, he's friends with Oreldol, so there may be more to him than meets the eye....

Captain Hunks

The leader of Section III, his [illegible] mind is hidden underneath his leisurely, [illegible] exterior.

Sergeant Major Stecchin

A [illegible] young girl, she's the paper-pusher for Section III. She doesn't resemble a soldier, nor does she consider herself to be one.

Mercury

Section III's [illegible] First Class Messenger Dog. He's a [illegible] male with a goofy face. He hasn't been seen recently...

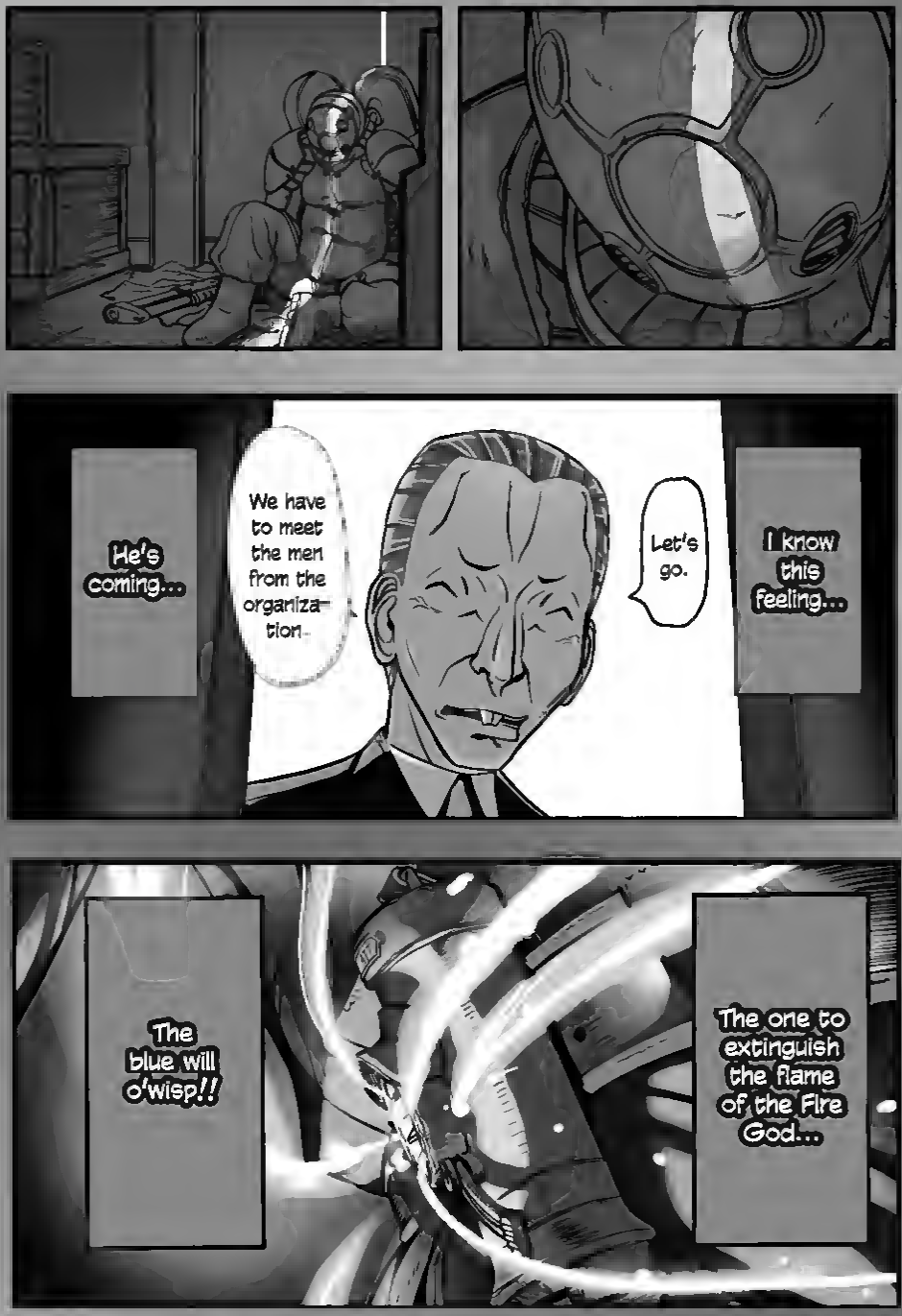
Major Connery

The leader of Section I, the elite unit in charge of [illegible] security. He appears to have authority and responsibilities that exceed his official position...

First Lieutenant Webner

Technology Research [illegible] Development Manager. She's a tall, [illegible] woman. She often sides with Section III unlike many people in the [illegible]. She has high [illegible] and [illegible] Section III crashing her vehicles.

COLD
COLD
COLD
COLD
COLD
COLD
COLD


He's coming...
We have to meet the men from the organization.
Let's go.
I know this feeling...
The blue will o'wisp!!
The one to extinguish the flame of the Fire God...

908?
Uh-
huh.

Episode 7 Lady with the Scissors

In fact, I developed their protective solution.
Protective solution?
Their protective suits weren't adequate protection against the extreme heat.
There was a problem with the unit.

It's a liquid insulation inside their suit to protect their body from the heat.
The "protective solution" was developed to solve that issue.
That sounds really useful.
It's a lie.
CLIK
SNAP
That was what we told the unit to get them into that suit.

I'm cold...
cold...
cold...
Then what was in the protective solution?
Cold...
Cold...
It's just an anesthetic to dull their senses.
They just can't "feel" themselves getting burned.

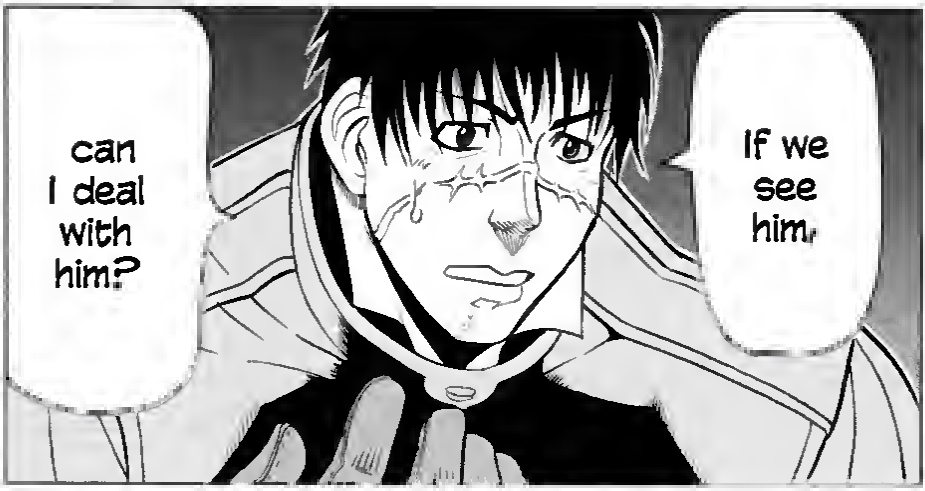
His skin underneath that suit
is probably destroyed by now...
SCAM
He's using the flame-thrower without knowing
what it's doing to his body!

Alt Schmied Jäger
FLUTTER

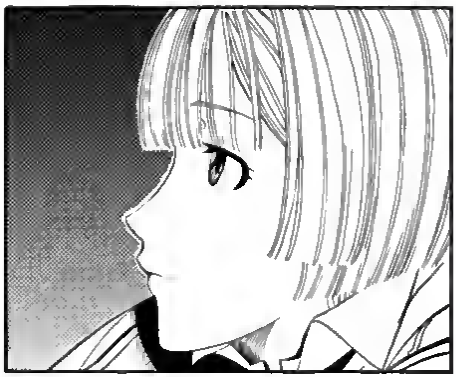
In communist folklore, he was a one pump chump.
Alt Schmied was a fire god and a cyclops.

A god that has forgotten a world full of life...
He scorched people with drought.

Do you think we'll end up exchanging fire?
This is a critical moment. Corporal, focus!
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
Based on experience...
Probably.
CLANK
CLANK


If we see him,
can I deal with him?

What?
No.

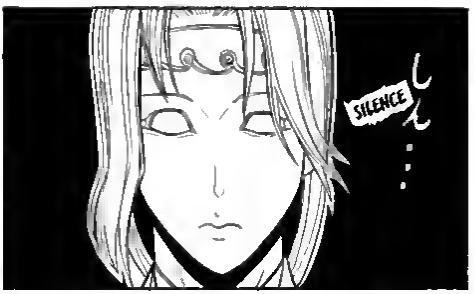


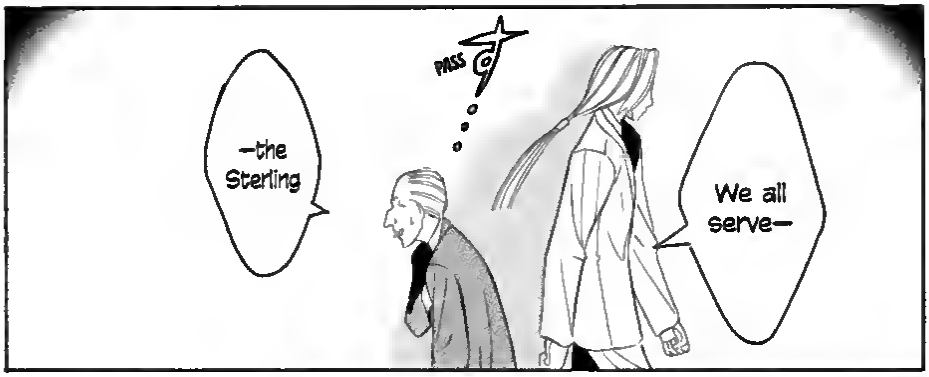
But, uh... Lieutenant!
HUFF
I'll fight him! Besides, you're hiding something from me.
I'm not, really. Lieutenant, are you upset with me!?

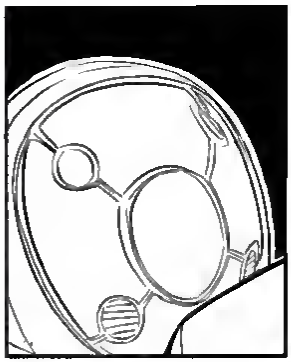
Waterworks Administration Building
We're almost at the water-works building.
Uh...
I'll fight!
1
2

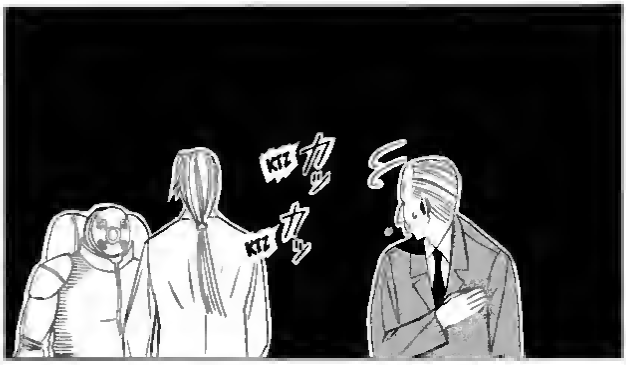
the Sterling Wheel
We all serve
W...

...


SILENCE


—the Sterling
PASS
We all serve—



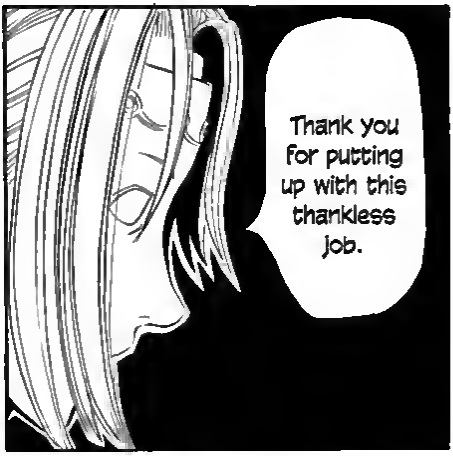

KIZ
KIZ

Mr. Mion.
Only members use that greeting toward each other.

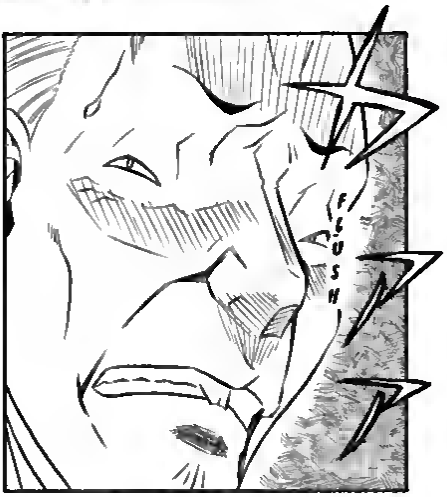
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE

How are you doing, Hans?
rrrrr
rrrrr

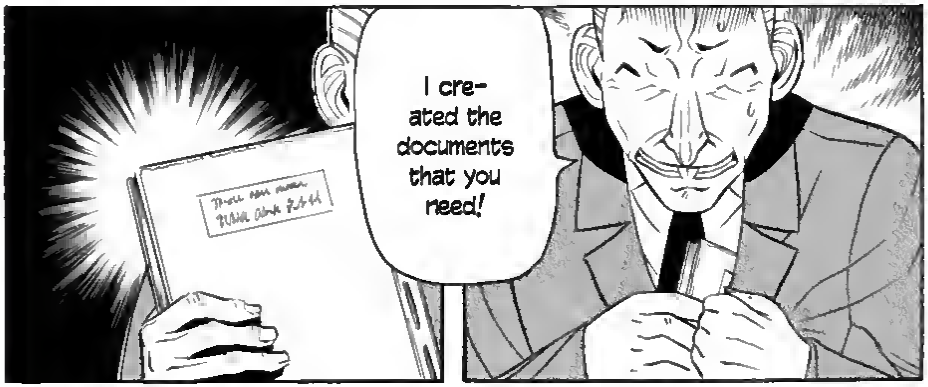
You gave me a place to stay.
I'm thank-ful.
rrrrr
rrrrr

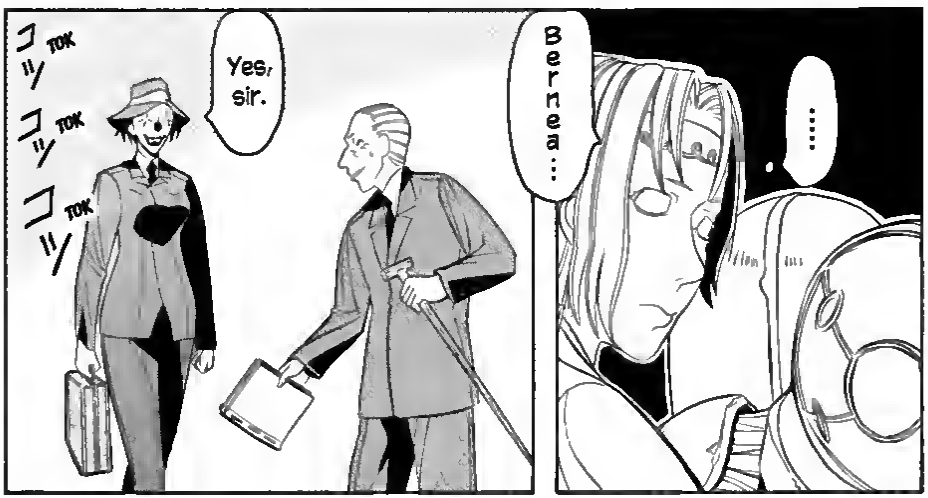

Thank you for putting up with this thankless job.

That worth-less freak!
THUD


FLUSH!

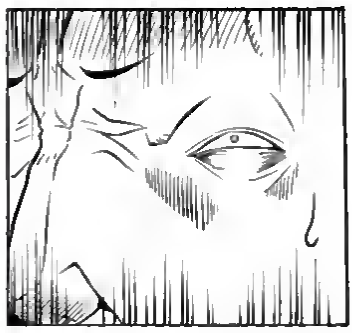
I've distributed your drug underground.
WAVE
WAVE
I've done far more for your bottom line!

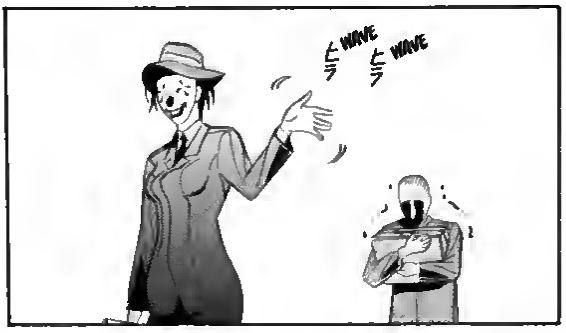

I created the documents that you need!


TOK
TOK
TOK
Yes, sir.
Bernea...
.....

There's your next stash.
TOSS
Here you go.

You just keep
the drug in circulation as instructed, sir.




WAVE
WAVE

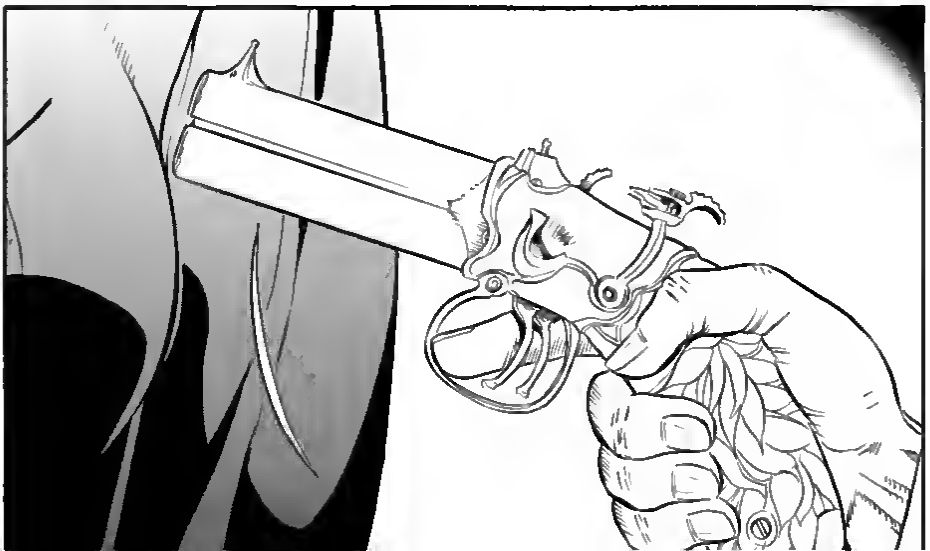
BANG
...What the—
SHEER
TCHKK
TCHKK
TCHKK

Did you hear a gun-shot?
VREEEM
Martis, let's go!
But .. Lieuten-ant!
Yes ma'am.
Cor-poral, there's not time to talk.
SLAM
STARE

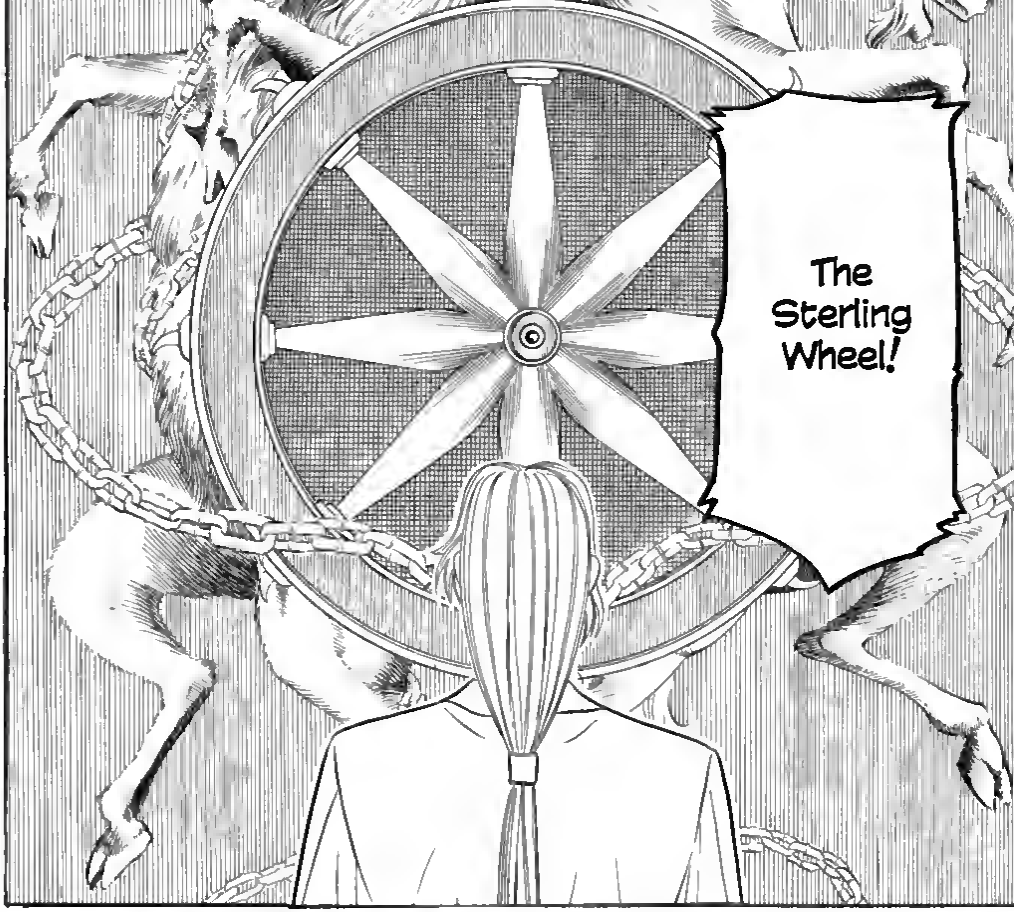
ARGH! Do what you want!
Lieu
Can you shoot him?
You have reservations about fighting him, right?
If that's the case,
I'll fight him for you.

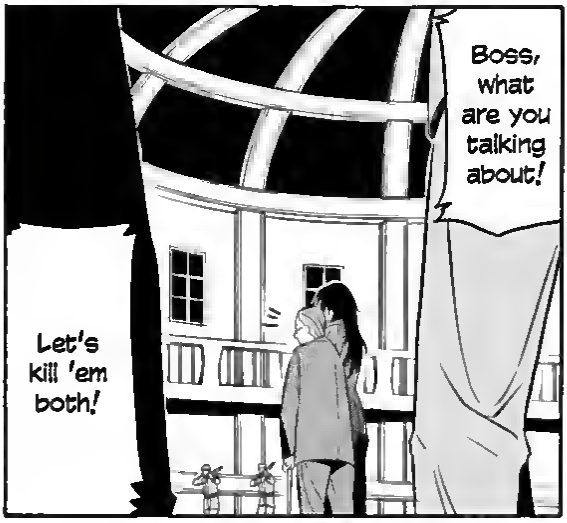
Lieutenant, that's why!..

I'm prepared
SQUEEZE
to fight.

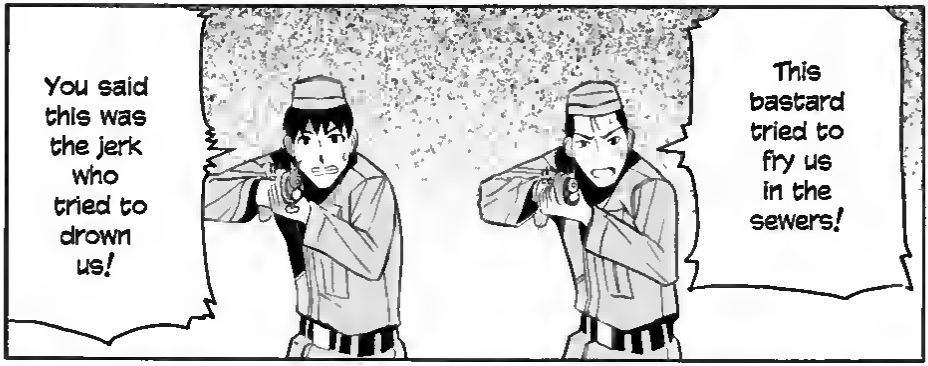


I usually make sure this building's empty.
TAP
I think I deserve a bigger piece of the pie.
Your name's Jack, right?
Fitting name for a punk like you.
So, Jack...
POKE
I believe it's time you make me a member of

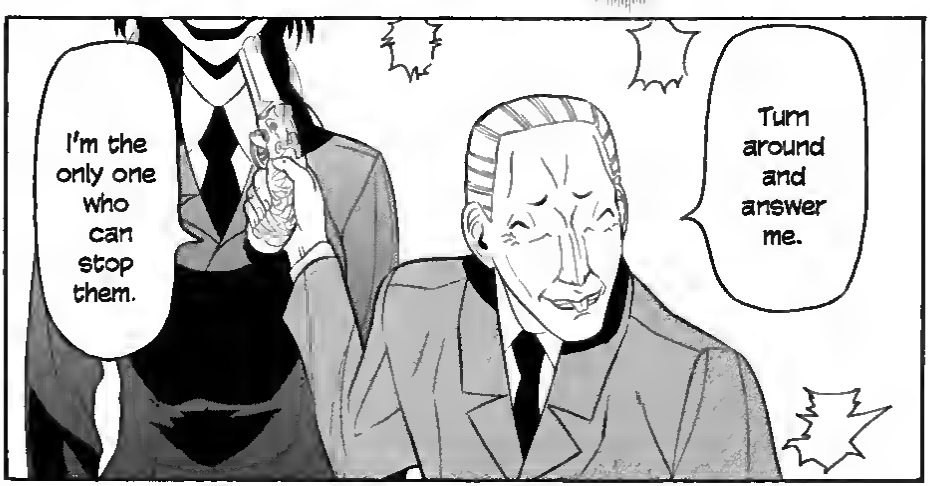

The Sterling Wheel!


Boss, what are you talking about!
Let's kill 'em both!

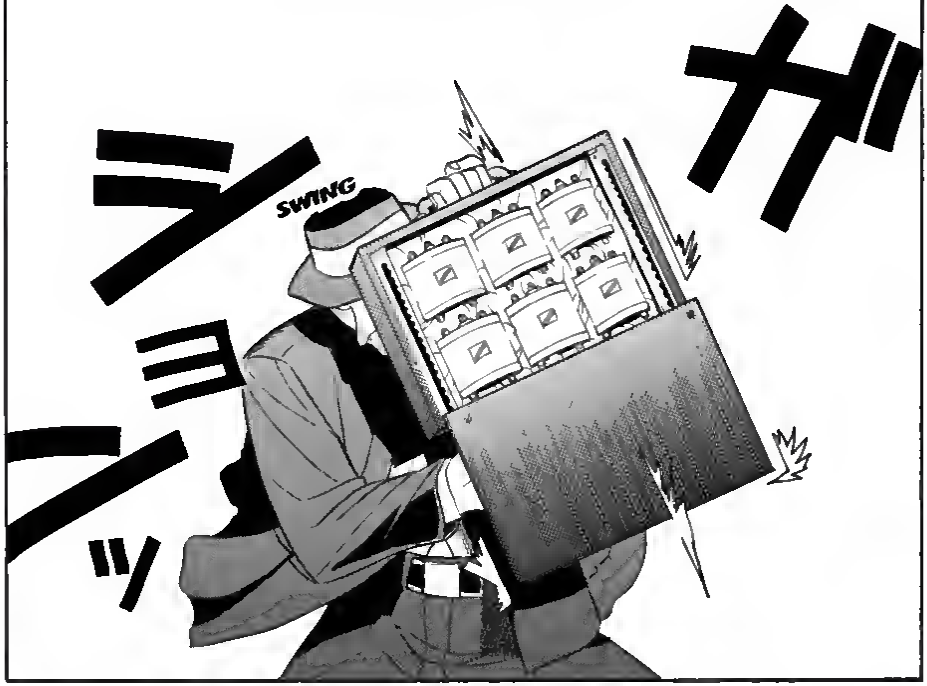
SHEER


You said this was the jerk who tried to drown us!
This bastard tried to fry us in the sewers!

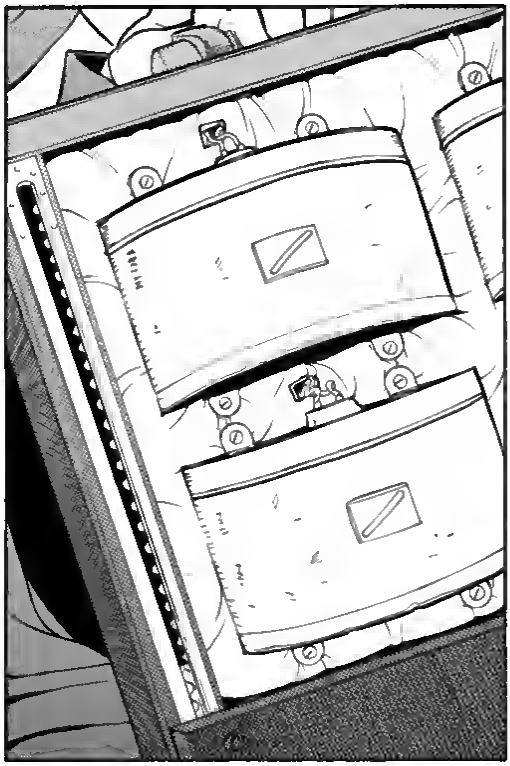
Kill 'em all!
Kill!
Kill 'em!


I'm the only one who can stop them.
Turn around and answer me.

Yes, sir.
Gran.
STOMP
Doesn't matter! Let's start with this one!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
Hey! Don't move!
TICKEEE
CLICK

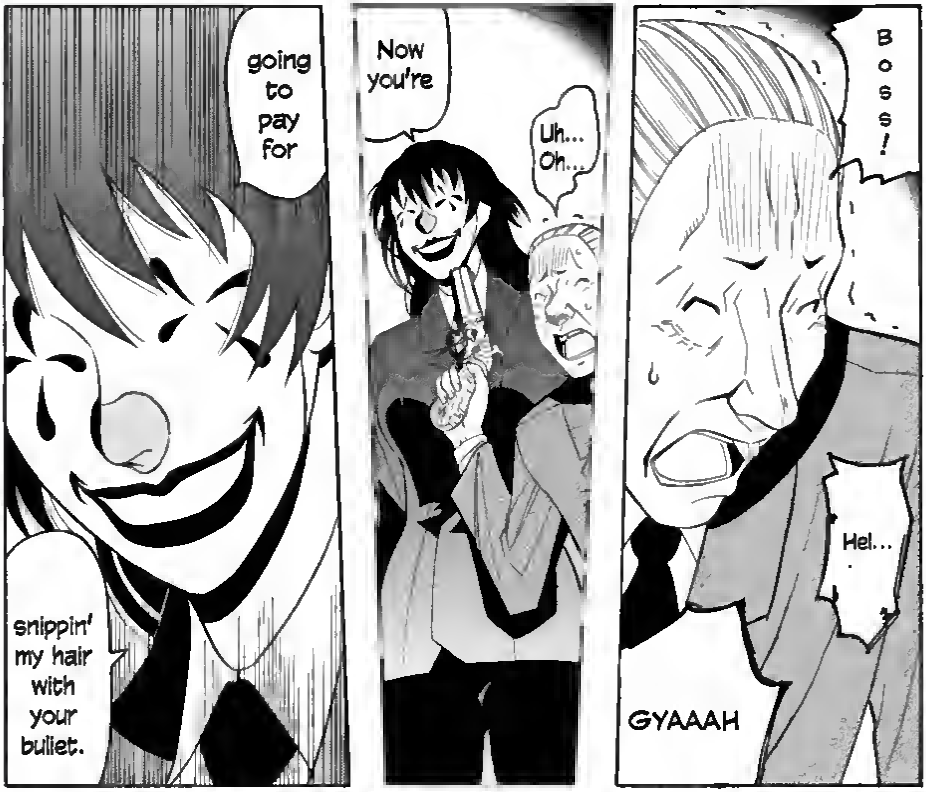

ブンッ
SWING

What the hell?



BWHOOM
CRACKK
CRACKK
SHATTER

DHHAM
DHHAM
DHHAM
GUAH!
GYAAAH!

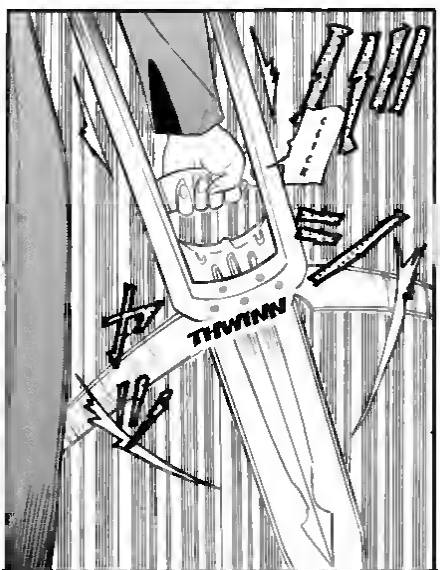

Boss!
Hel...
GYAAAH
Now you're
Uh... Oh...
going to pay for
snippin' my hair with your bullet.

What!?
JOLT
CREAK
Drop the gun right now,
unless you

SCHWEEN

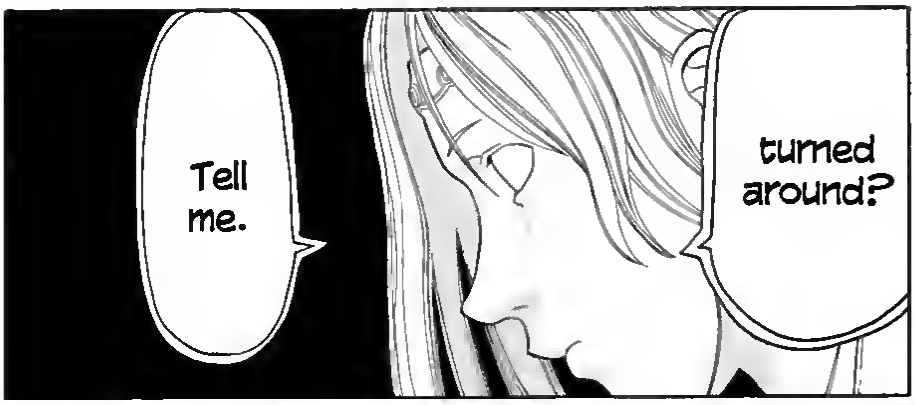
Uh...
um...
I...
DRIP
want to be slashed to ribbons.

Everyone!
Crap
Drop your weapons!


THWINN

I'm dead meat.
.....
They're going to kill me.
I turned against the organization and failed.
!?
We'll see you in two weeks.
I beg forgiveness for my insolent behavior.

Forgive?
.....
TOK
LEAP
You'll forgive me!?
What did
you do?
before !
Were you able to do anything to me

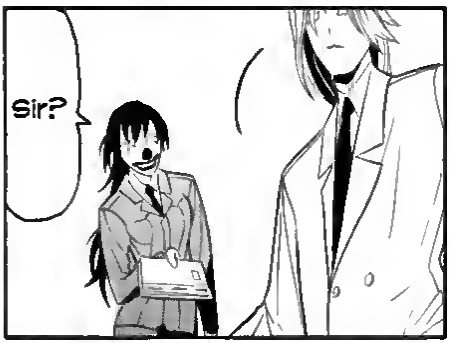

Tell me.
turned around?

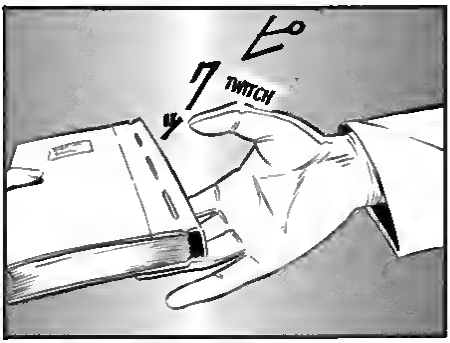
ハラリ
FLOP

I will not
ask for any more.
MUMBLE
MUMBLE

I will continue
MUMBLE
to distribute the drugs at your command.

Yes, sir.
Bernea, get the documents.
We need to leave.
STEP

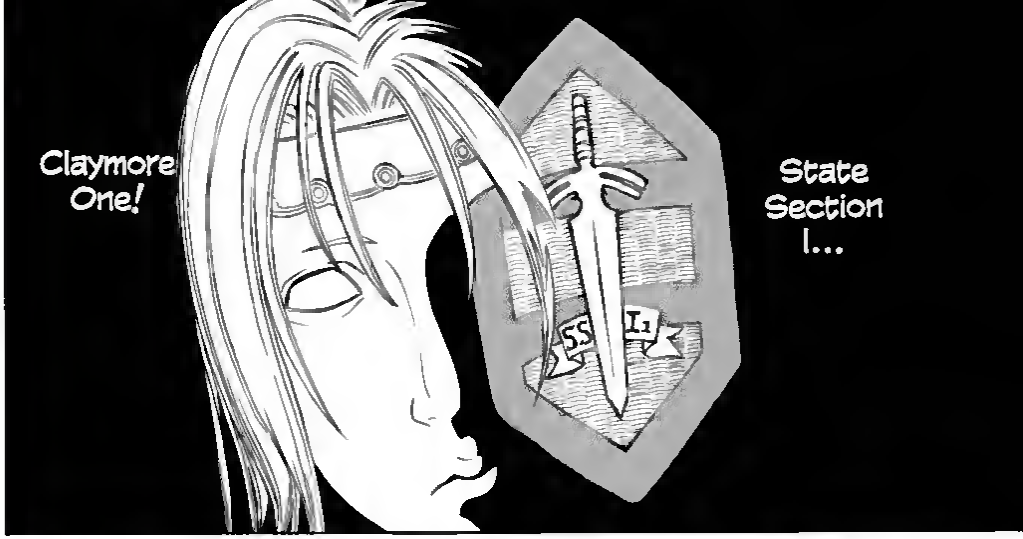

Sir?

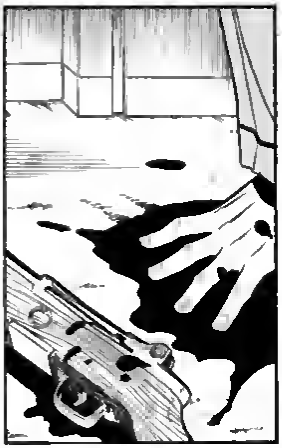

TWITCH

We've been surrounded.

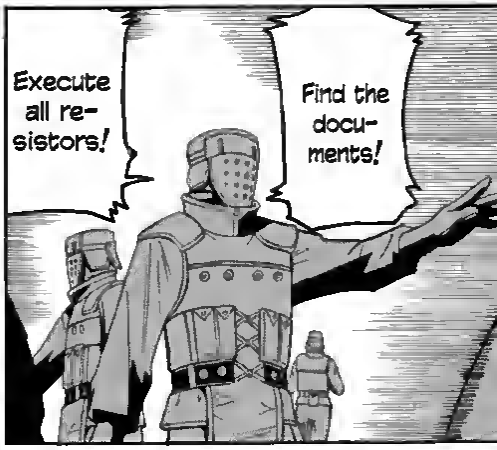
CREAK
CREAK

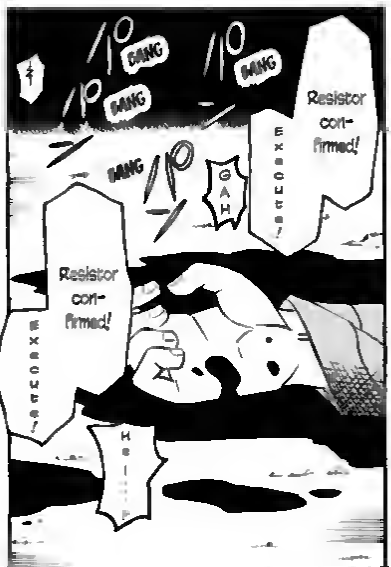
ナ!
BAMMM
ナ!
BAMMM


Claymore One!
State Section I...
SS
I1



Un...
GAAAH!


Execute all resistors!
Find the documents!

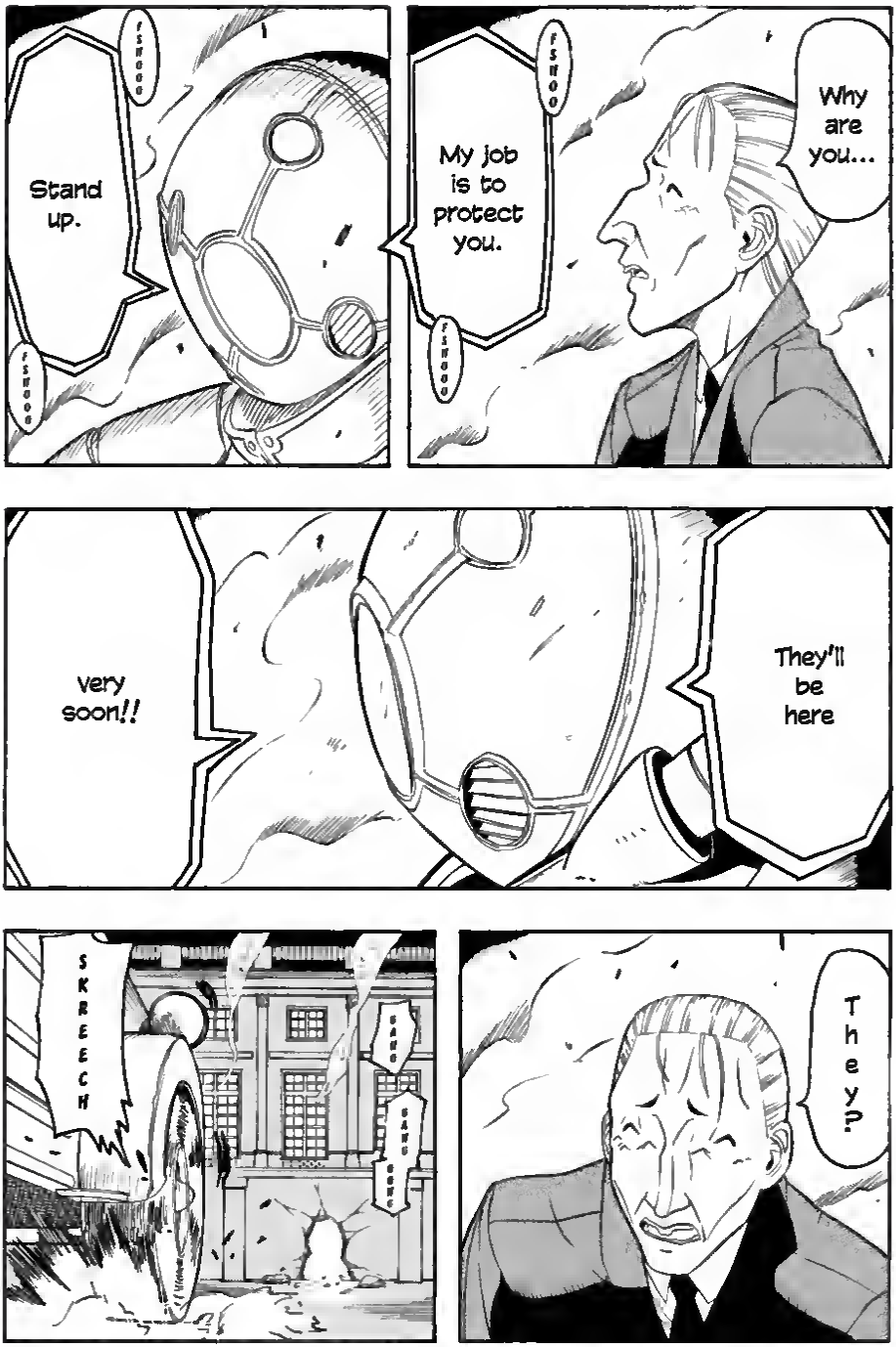

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
GAH
Resistor confirmed!
Execute!
Resistor confirmed!
Execute!
He-----p

Execute!
BANG
BANG
BANG
Resistor confirmed!

THUD
Negative here.
BANG
BANG
BANG
Documents, negative...
THWIP
SKIDDDDD
Where could the damned thing be?
FLAPP
?

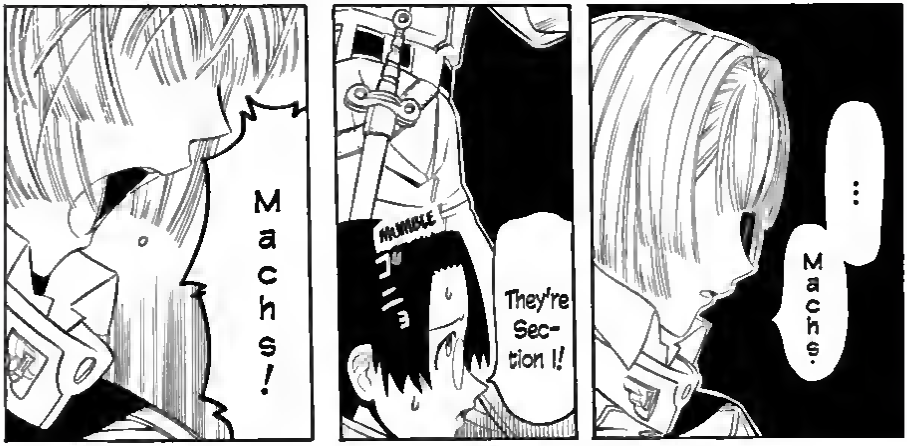
BLAMMM
CRACK
WHOOSH
Our men just got
Damn!
KOFF
SMOKE
SMOKE
Sir!
WHEEZE
SLIT

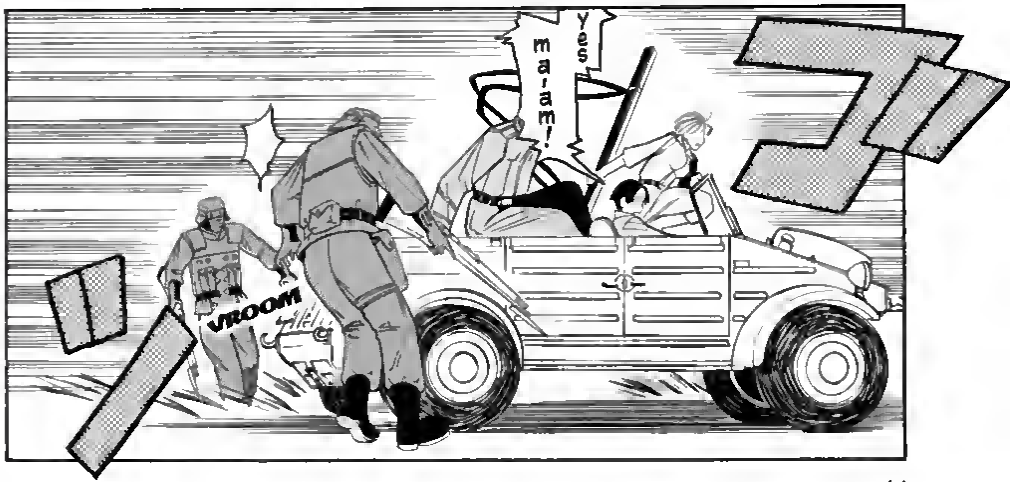
I know.
TUMP!
We must hurry!
Bring over the armor piercing ammo!
What the hell?


Why are you...
fshoo
My job is to protect you.
fshoo
fshoo
Stand up.
fshoo
They'll be here
very soon!!
SKREECH
BANG
BANG
BANG
They?

GUAAH
What's going on!?
LEAP
THUD
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
They're hunting down amateurs!
An Assault team...
BANG
BANG

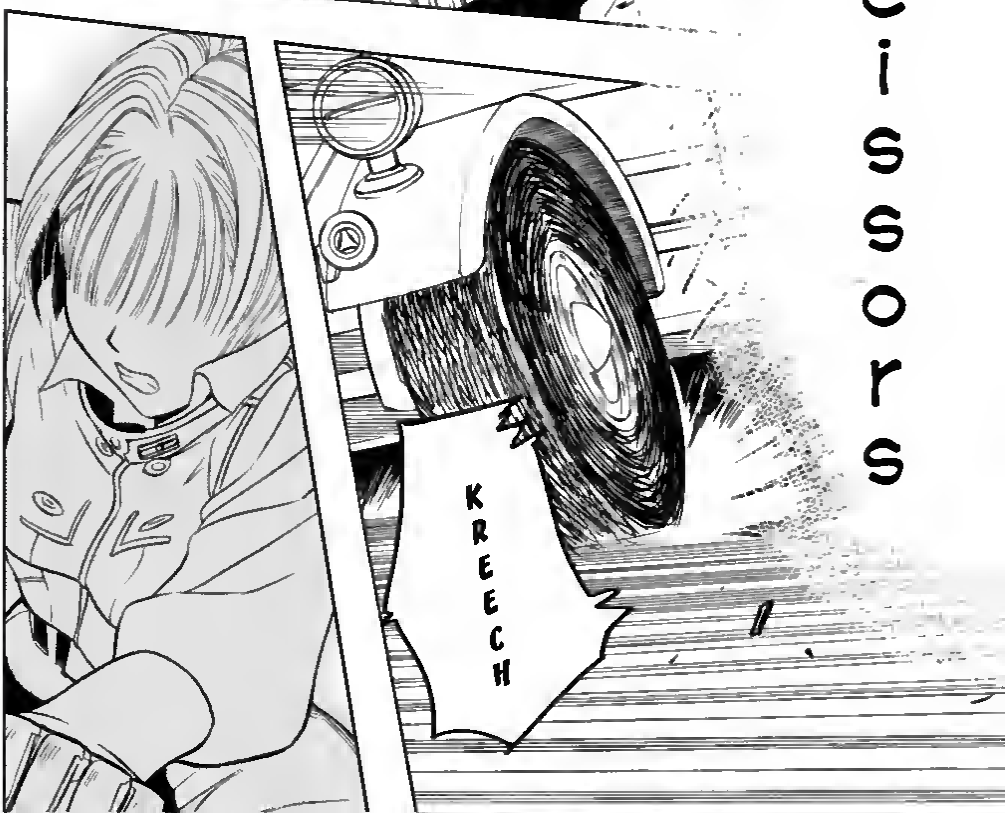
You must leave immediately!
STAND
We have operational jurisdiction here.


Machs!
MUMBLE
They're Section 1!
...
Machs.

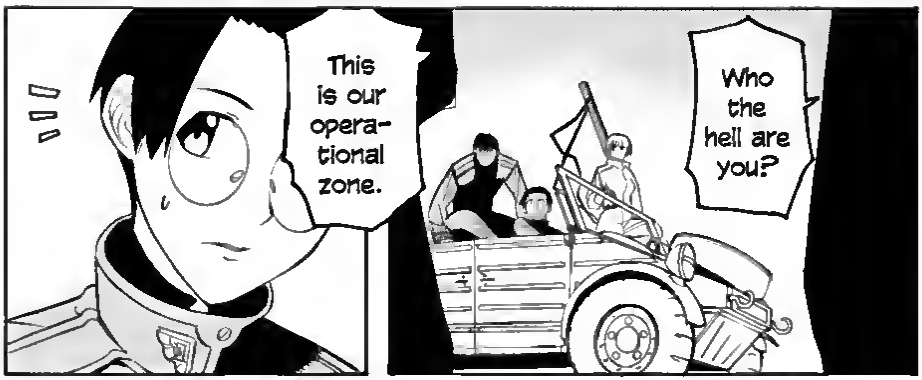

yes ma'am!
VROOM

We have intruders in our operational zone!
Contact headquarters immediately!
Damn idiots!
Requesting permission to execute!
ガシャ CLICK
ガシャ CLICK
ガシャ CLICK
State Section III
STOP!
Intruders are Imperial soldiers.

Pumpkin Scissors



Halt the massacre!
Who's in charge here?


This is our operational zone.
Who the hell are you?

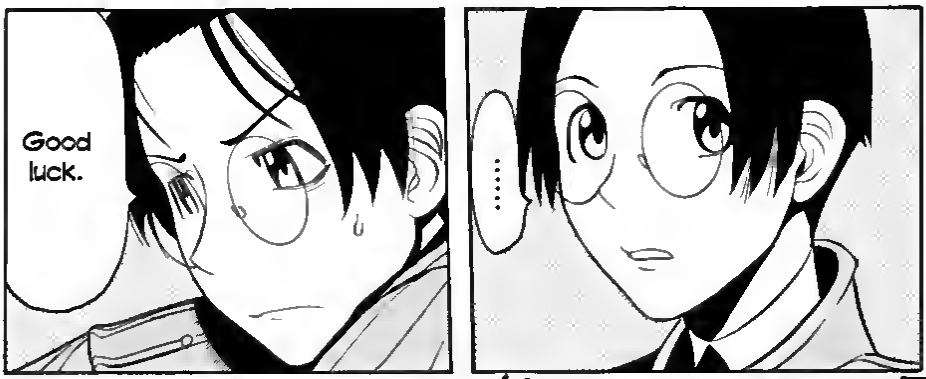
Lieu——
LEAP

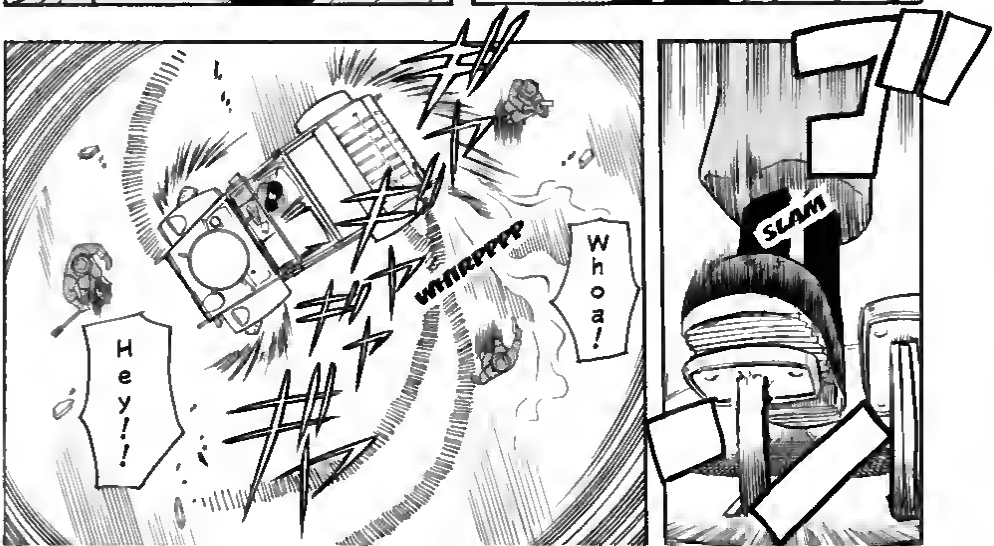
SYAAAH

BANG
BANG
Follow him, Machs.
DASH
Freeze!
Corpo-ral!?
Corporal wanted to fight...
i'm sure Cor-poral found his man.
What about you, Lieuten-ant?
Mion's going to be nearby.
Back the man up.
GYAH

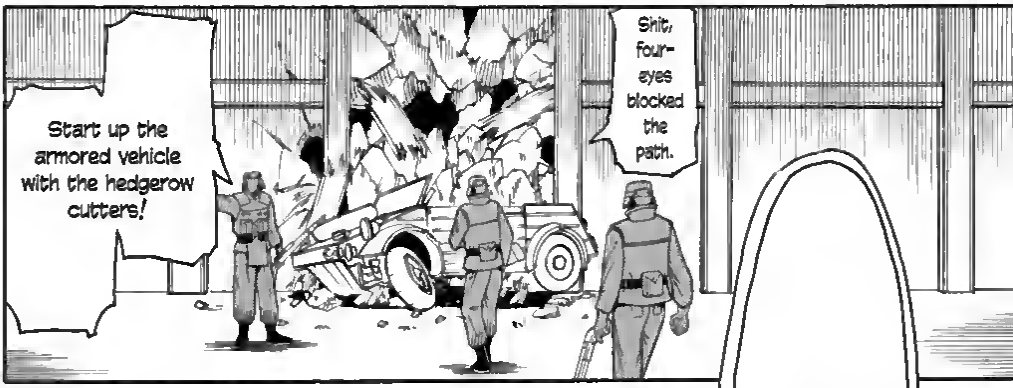
STOMP
Seems like these fools are in need of a lesson.
Lieu-tenant!
I can't stop her by myself...
You're assuming we won't harm a fellow soldier.
CACKLE
CACKLE
CACKLE
CACKLE
Corporal, why did you leave the lieutenant!
SLAMM
I don't know why.

For the first time, I feel like
the Corporal trusts me.

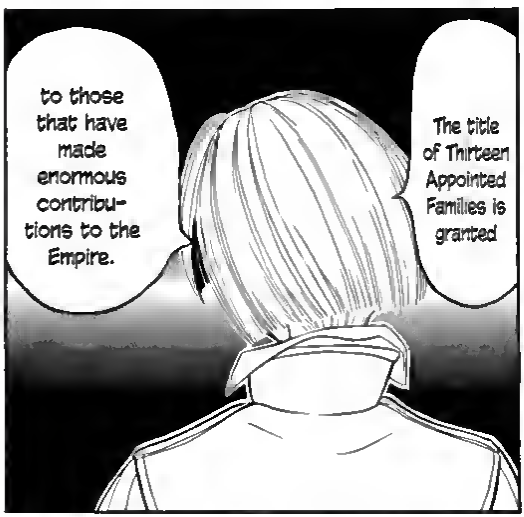

Good luck.
.....


WHIRRRRR
Whoa!
Hey!!
SLAM

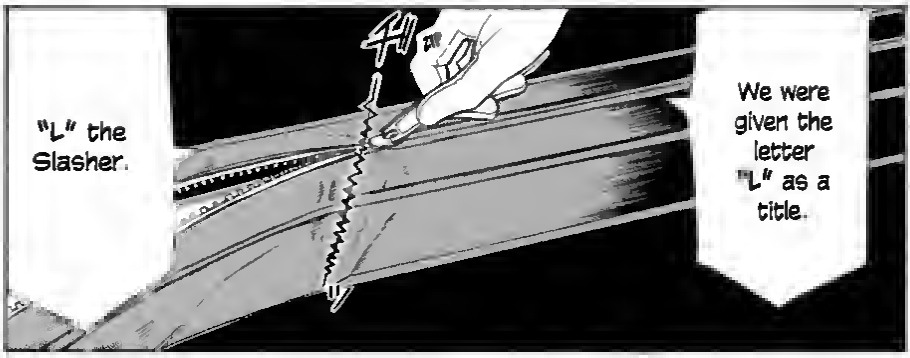
VROOM
JERK
CATCH K
Cor-
poral,
ever
since
you
joined
us,
our sleepy
little unit has
been
wracked with
violence.

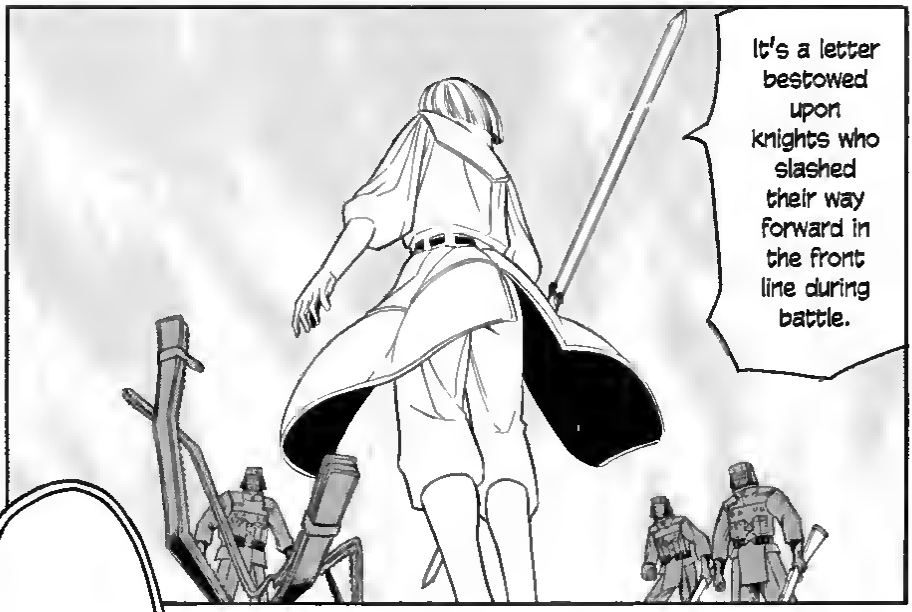

Start up the armored vehicle with the hedgerow cutters!
Shit, four-eyes blocked the path.

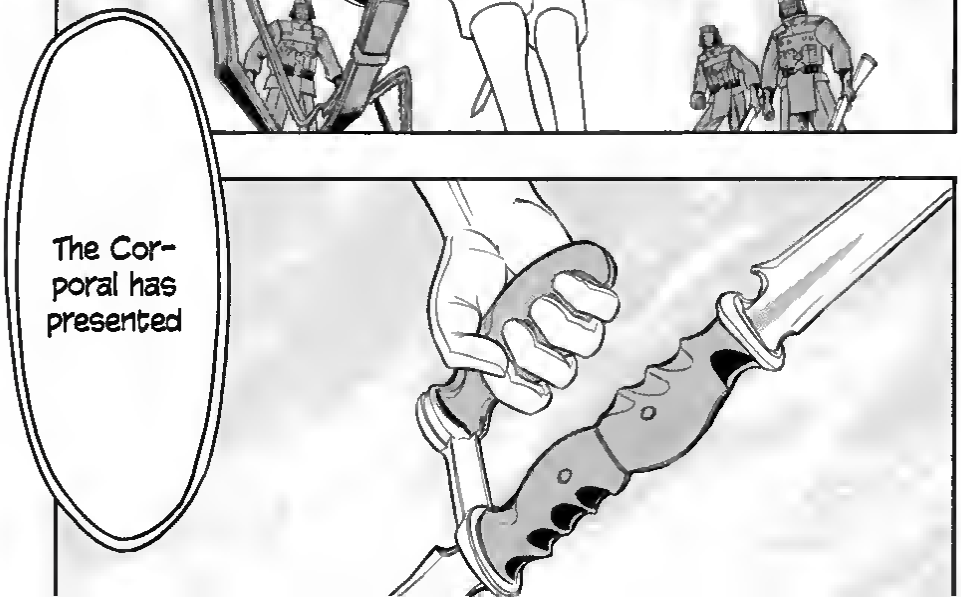
BOKK
SMACK
Corporal Randel Oland...


to those that have made enormous contributions to the Empire.
The title of Thirteen Appointed Families is granted

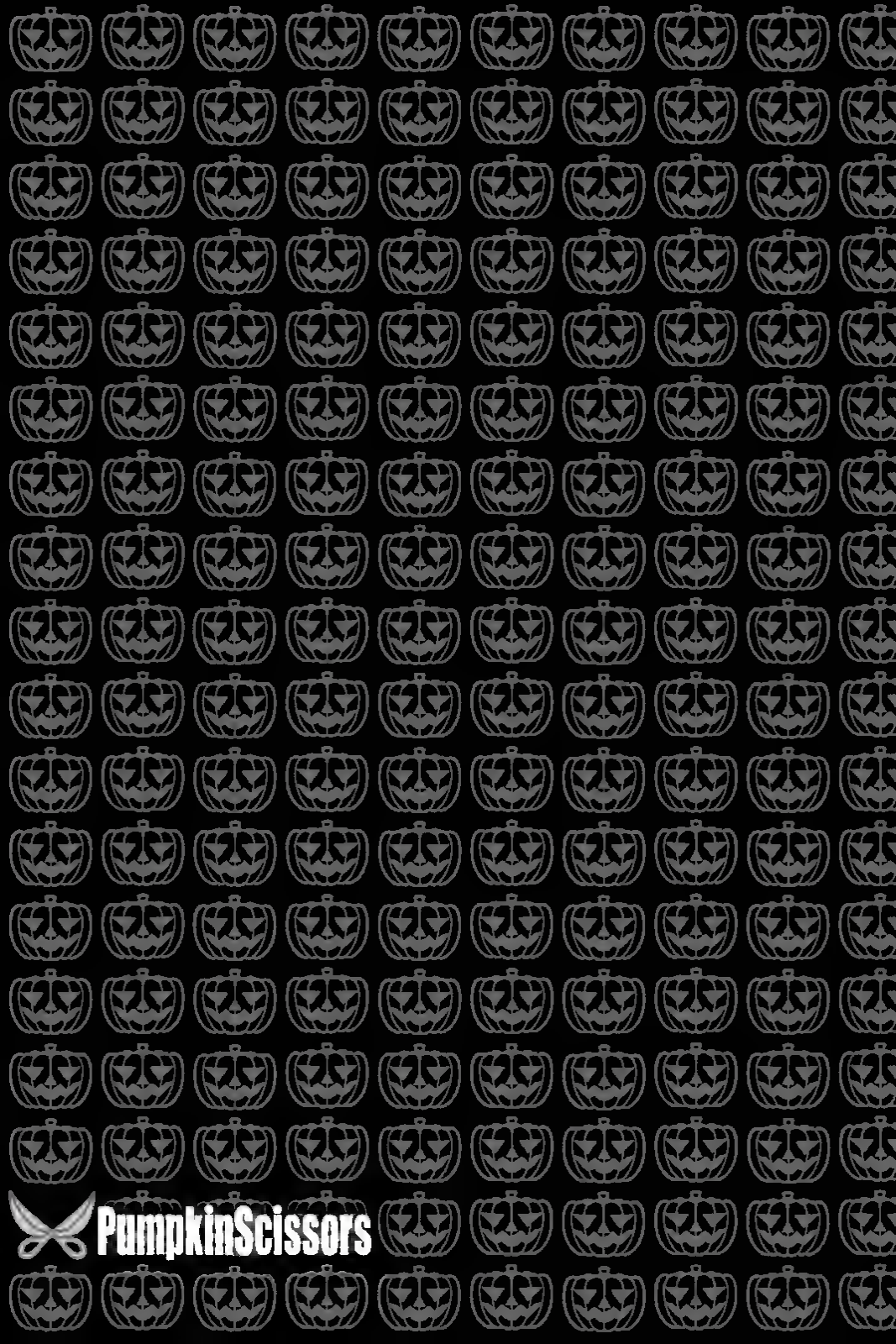
THUD

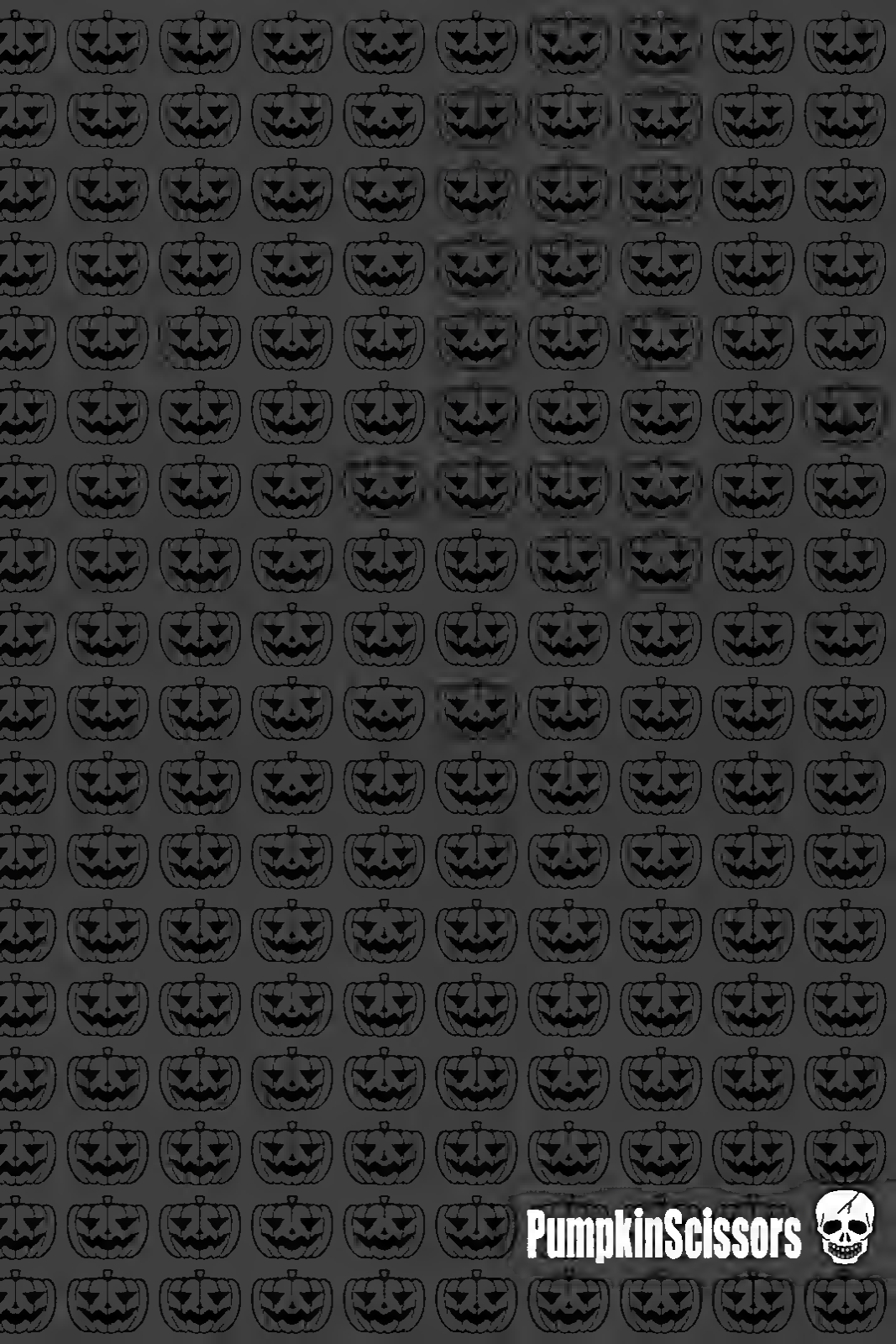

"L" the Slasher.
We were given the letter "L" as a title.


It's a letter bestowed upon knights who slashed their way forward in the front line during battle.

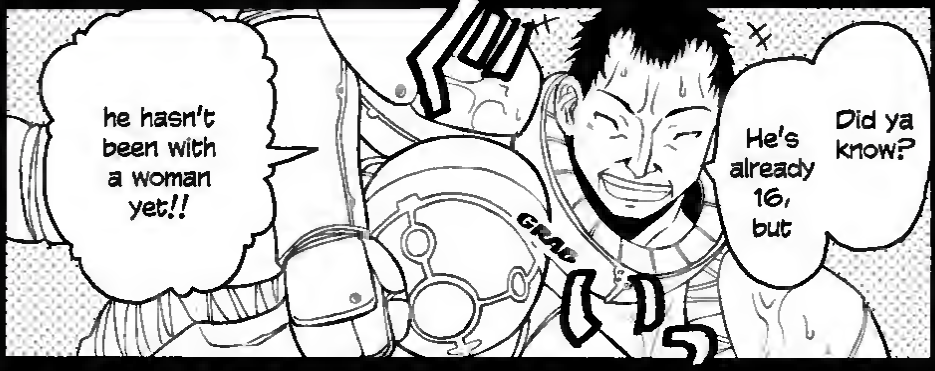

The Corporal has presented

me with a battlefield.
Chal-
lenge
me if
you
dare!
SWING
#7/ THE END

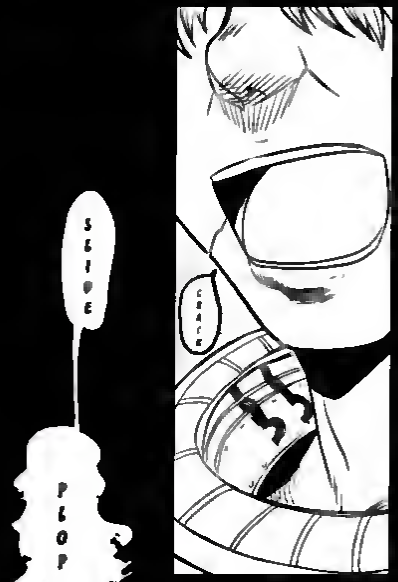

PumpkinScissors

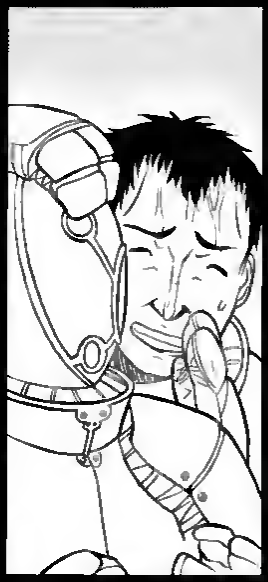

PumpkinScissors

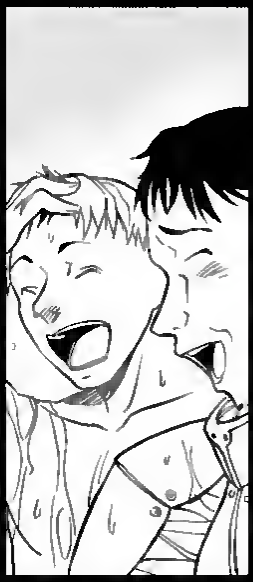
SPLASH
PFFHHT
わはははは
HAHAHAHA
Thank god for the cease-fire.
We can finally get out of this get-up!
RAISE
You're slow as usual.
You're the only one left!
Uh
Guh
CLATTER
CLATTER
Hurry up, Hans!
CACKLE
わはは


Did ya know?
He's already 16, but
he hasn't been with a woman yet!!
GRAB

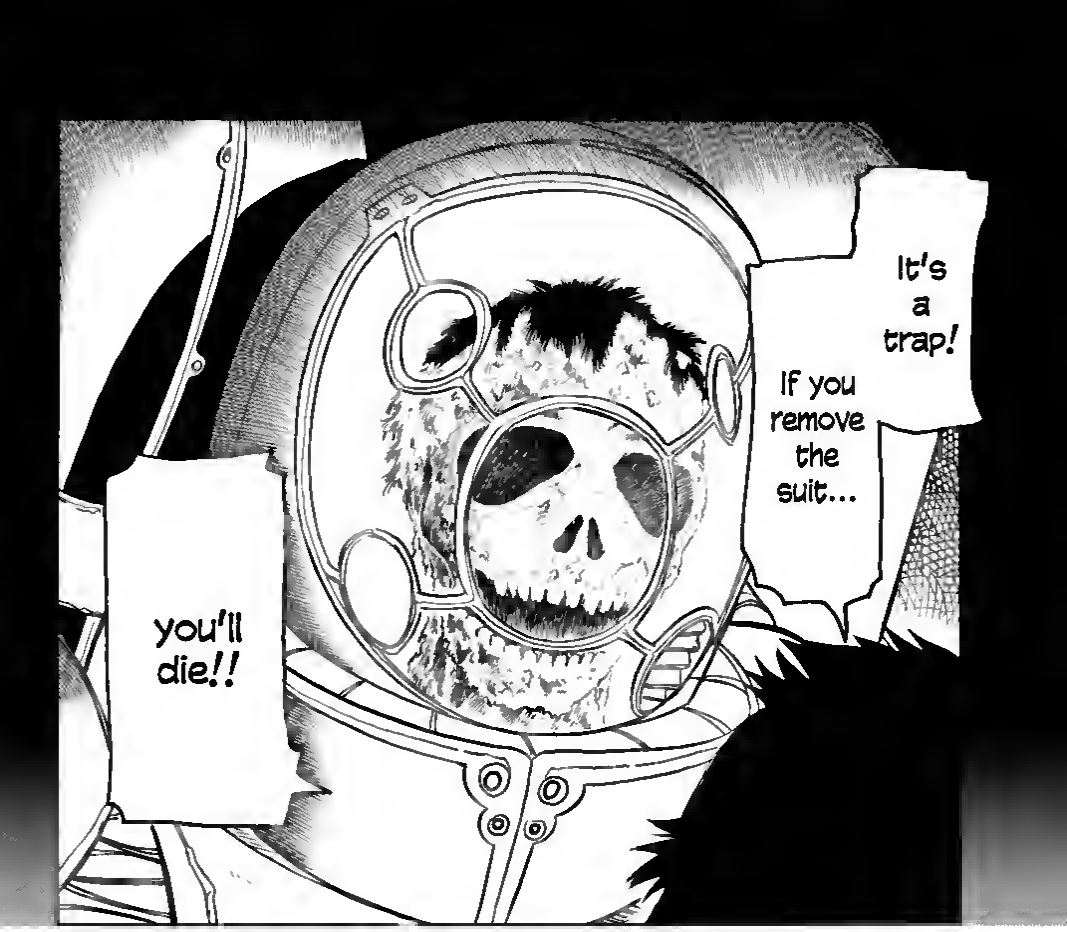
I promised to introduce him to chicks when we get back. Right?
GAHAHA


SLIDE
PLOP
CRACK

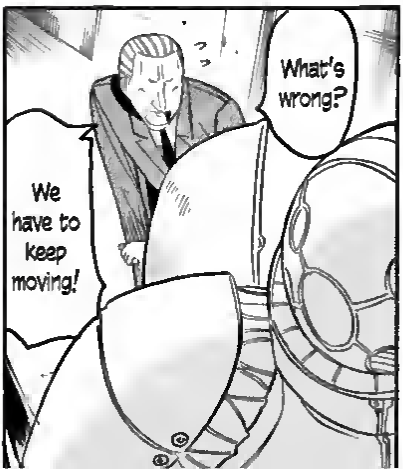


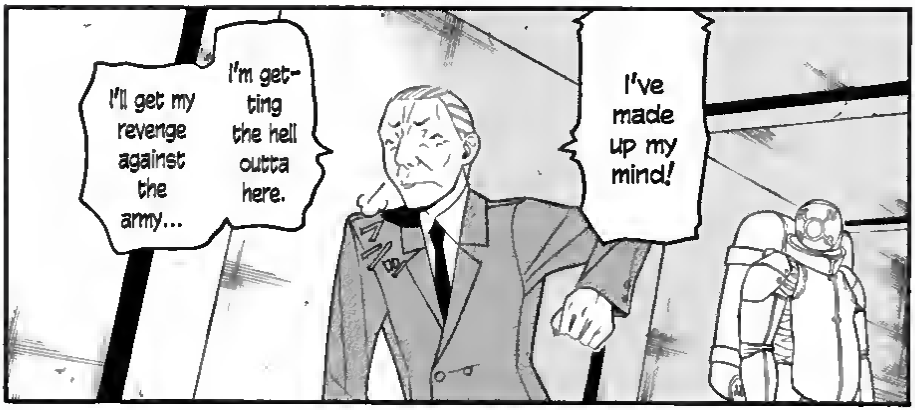


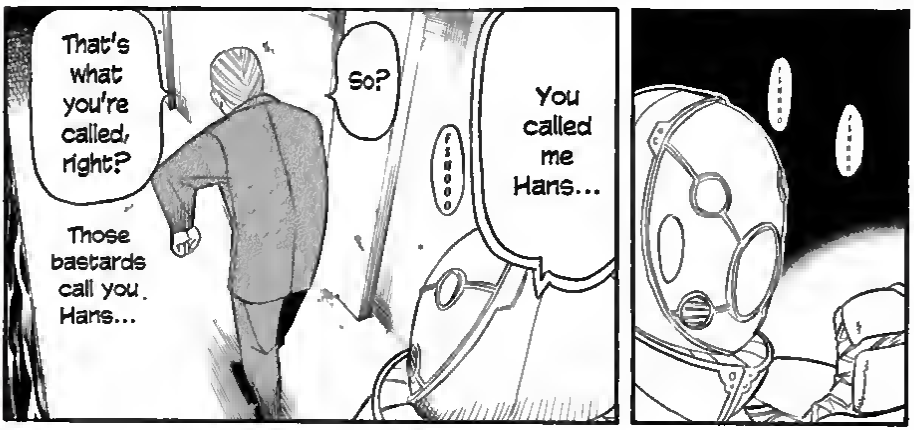
Your jaw... just slid off your face...?
Uh...
SLIP
What...?
My skin's sliding off!
My skin!
It's falling off!
Blood's pouring out!
GAAAH!
GAAAH!
SLOP
SPLAT
SPLIT
SPLIT
SPLIT
PLOP
PLOP
Run away, Hans.
STAGGER
GRAB
protective solution
We were using the

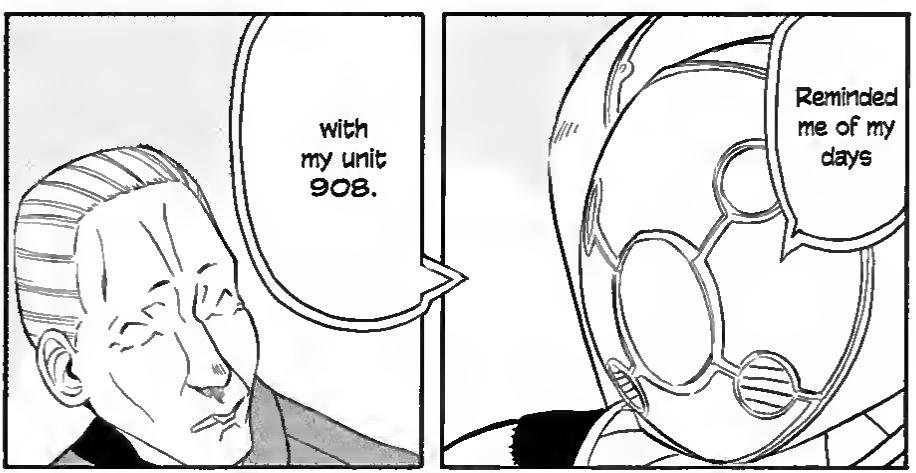


Episode 8 Men of the Pumpkins

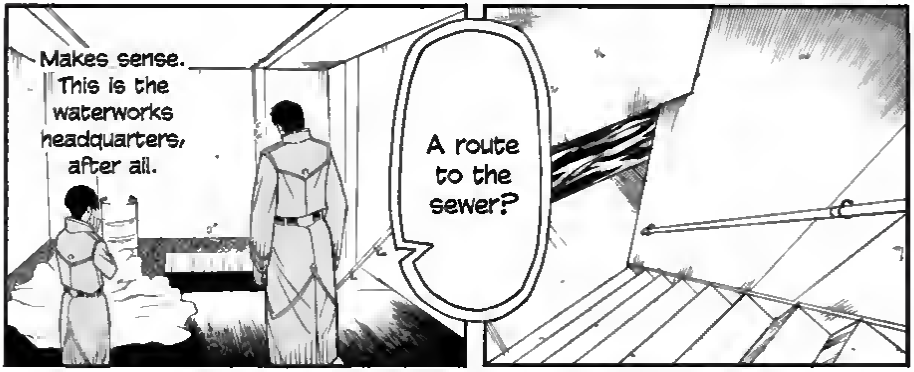



I'll get my revenge against the army...
I'm getting the hell outta here.
I've made up my mind!


That's what you're called, right?
Those bastards call you Hans...
So?
You called me Hans...


with my unit 908.
Reminded me of my days

You're a freak.
Heh!
KTZ
KTZ


Makes sense. This is the waterworks headquarters, after all.
A route to the sewer?

I shouldn't stray much farther from the lieutenant.
GLANCE
I was impul-sive.

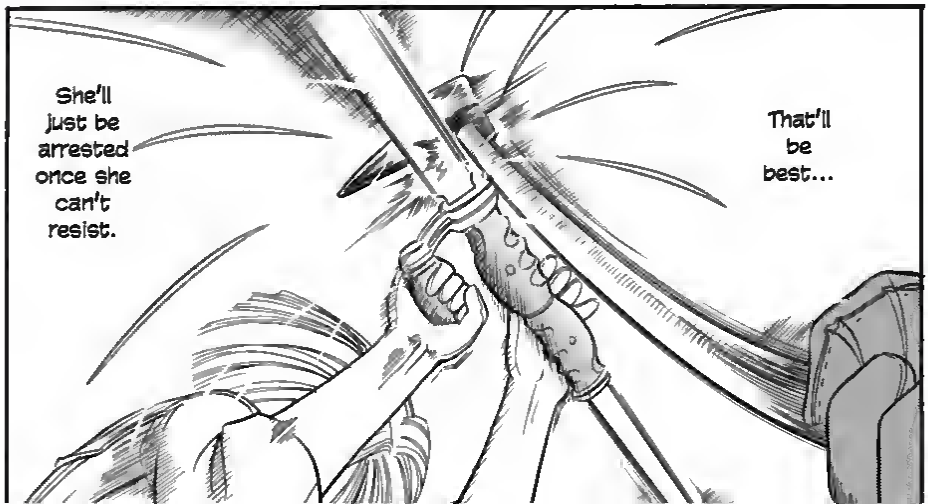
If you trust her, then don't worry.
She can take care of herself.
She's a noble, and she's also a fellow Soldier.
The execution order will have to be required before they shoot her.
Even Major Connery will need at least an hour to get permission from his superiors.

Section I can't fire on her during that time.
JANGLE
We have an hour.

Fatigue will set in quickly.
She can't fend them off for a full hour.
KKK
KKKK
KKK
KKKK

NOD
LEAP

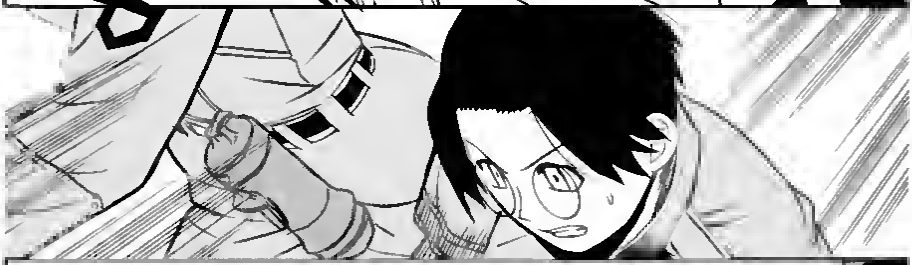
We just have to get back before then.


She'll just be arrested once she can't resist.
That'll be best...

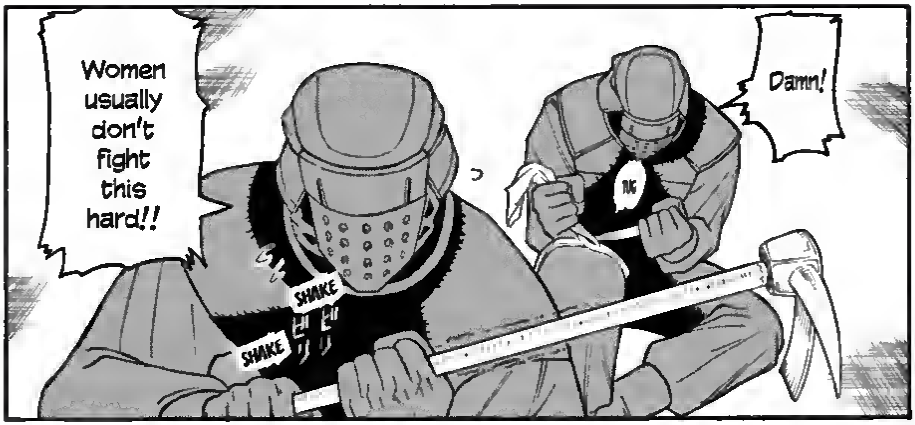
We're talking
But...
Alice Malvin.
about

Kiz

wrongdoing that most would choose to ignore...
She'll raise her sword against



lay down her weapon!!
She won't

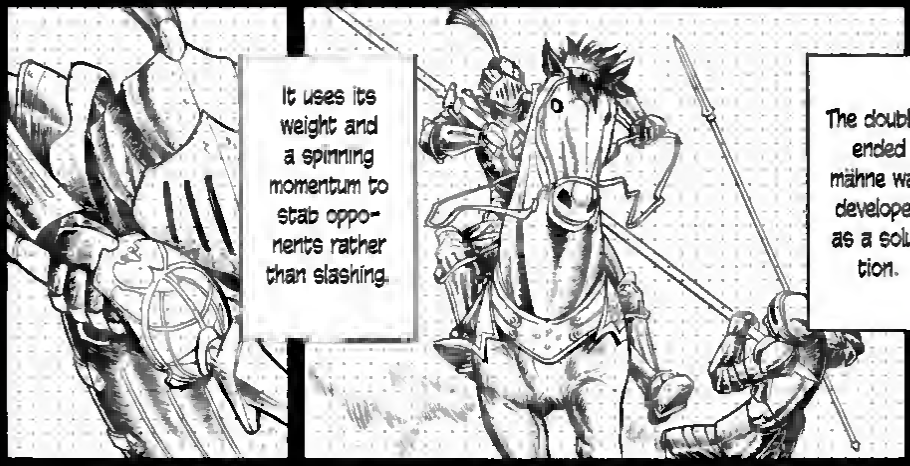

Women usually don't fight this hard!!
Damn!
SHAKE
SHAKE

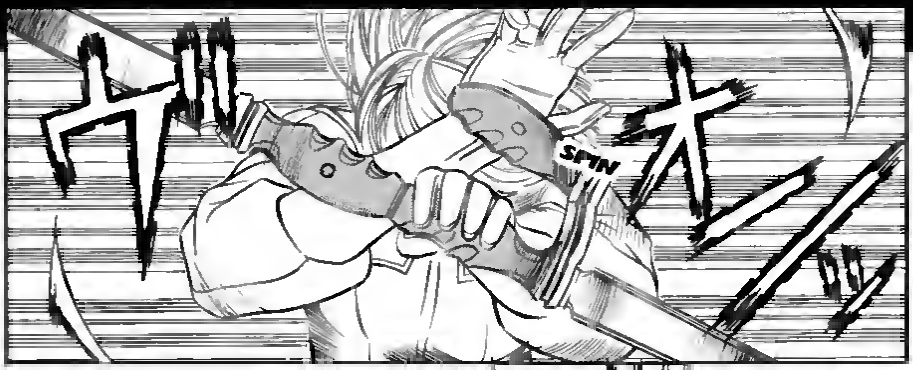
That weapon was used when wars were still fought on horse-back.

Her weapon... that's called a männe.
Vice-cap-tain!

The rider can't slash freely due to the horse's neck.

Fighting on horseback opens up a weakness on the unarmed side.


It uses its weight and a spinning momentum to stab opponents rather than slashing.
The double-ended mähne was developed as a solution.


SPIN

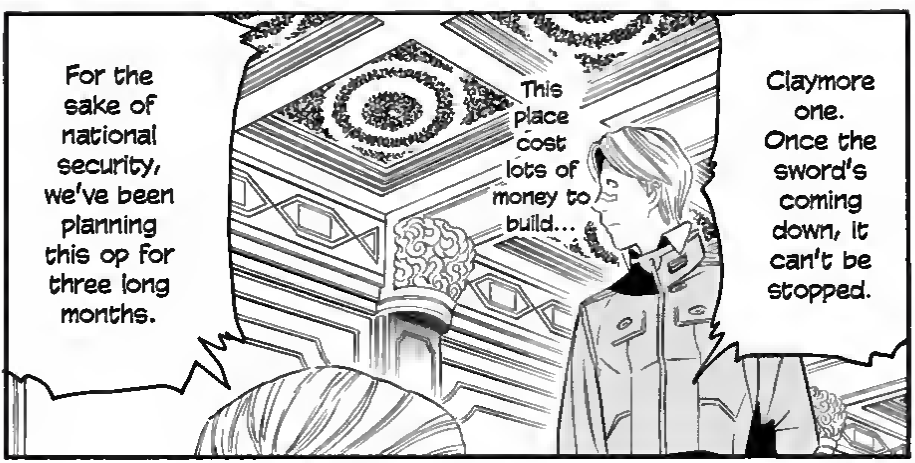
She dares to fight with such a weapon.

TIWIPP

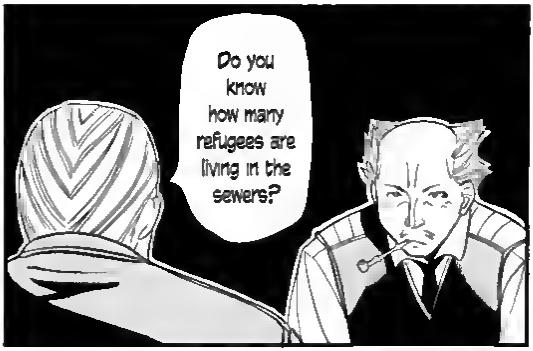
I agree. You don't fight like a woman.
TCHAAAT
BREATHE
SWIN
NG
Vice-Captain!
Damn!
Did the execution order come in yet?
SECTION

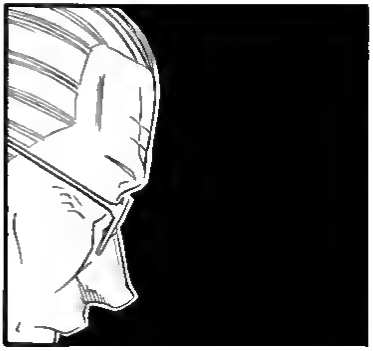
I was wondering why you decided to visit me.

You must be kidding.
So, you want me to pull my men out?


For the sake of national security, we've been planning this op for three long months.
This place cost lots of money to build...
Claymore one. Once the sword's coming down, it can't be stopped.

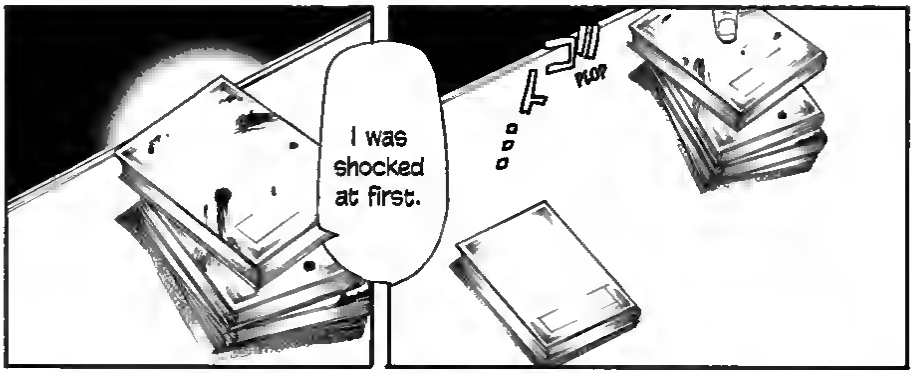
THUMP
ボン
You're looking for this, right?
TAP
To be accurate,
you're looking for documents that compile the data in these books.
It's the experimental data from the drug trade
that turned the sewers into another "country."

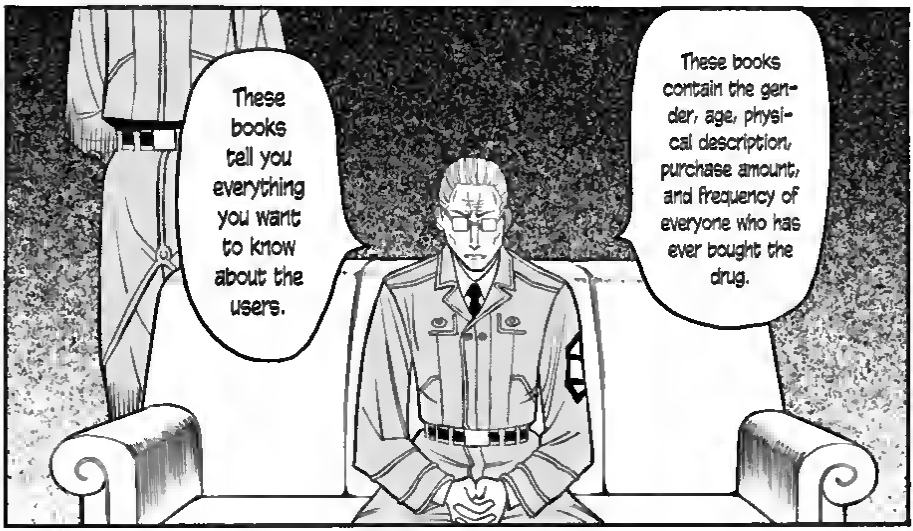

Do you know how many refugees are living in the sewers?

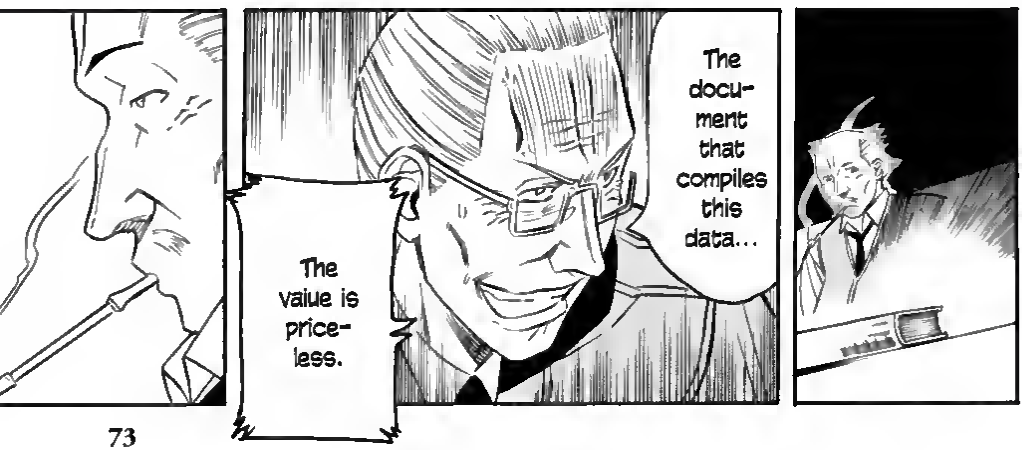


The expansive sewer system is now the equivalent of a small country.
Few hundred, few thousand... likely a lot more.

The people you relocated are just a small handful of the total.


I was shocked at first.
PLOP


These books tell you everything you want to know about the users.
These books contain the gender, age, physical description, purchase amount, and frequency of everyone who has ever bought the drug.


The value is priceless.
The document that compiles this data...

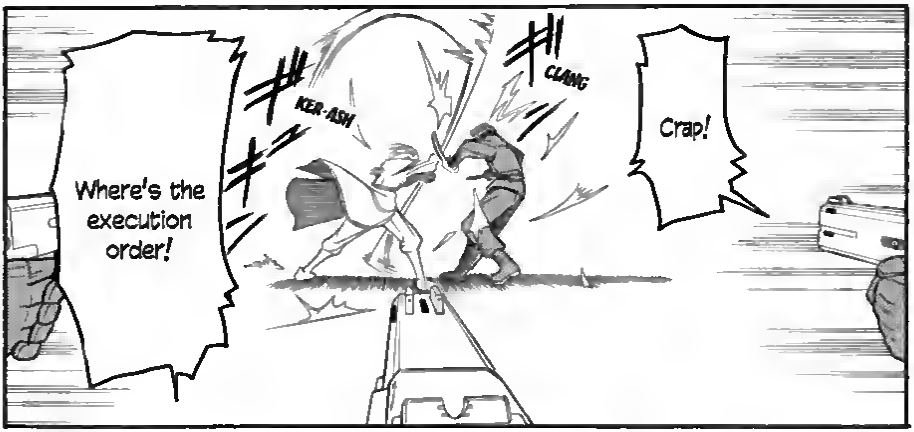
So you're saying the army wants
to run a drug cartel?
Our budget has diminished continuously due to the cease-fire.
We need a source of income!

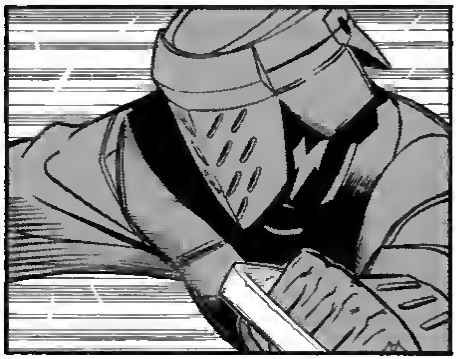
THWAPP
I'm here to do Section III's job.
I don't give a damn about that.
HEH
Your men need to pull out, Hunks.
I gave the approval for Section I's execution order of fellow soldiers.

PHEW
There are higher ranking members in the army who have no love for the Thirteen Appointed Families.
Mion is being supported by an unknown organization.
You're missing an important point.
In this day and age of widespread poverty,
I can crush a drug cartel or two.
their focus is not on the drug or money.
That's the problem.

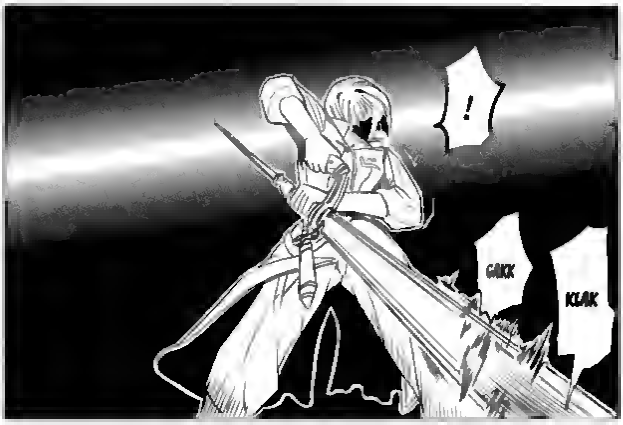
I doubt they're a petty drug cartel.
Their currency is information.
I've got an idea.
CLICKKKK
They don't hesitate to provide punks with the latest and greatest weapons.
RAISE
Idea?

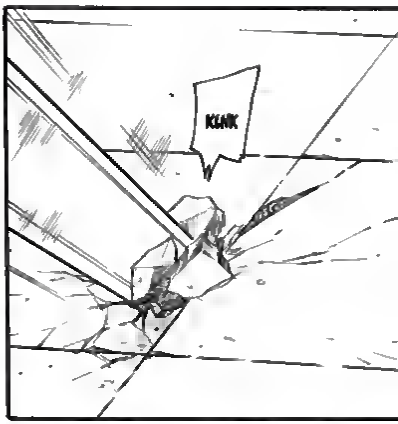
Cancel the execution order.
I give you information
in exchange for your signature.

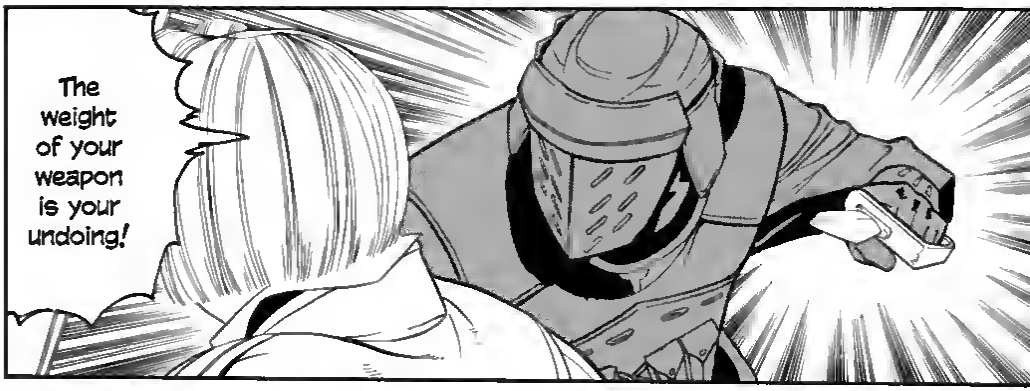

Where's the execution order!
KER-ASH
CLANG
Crap!

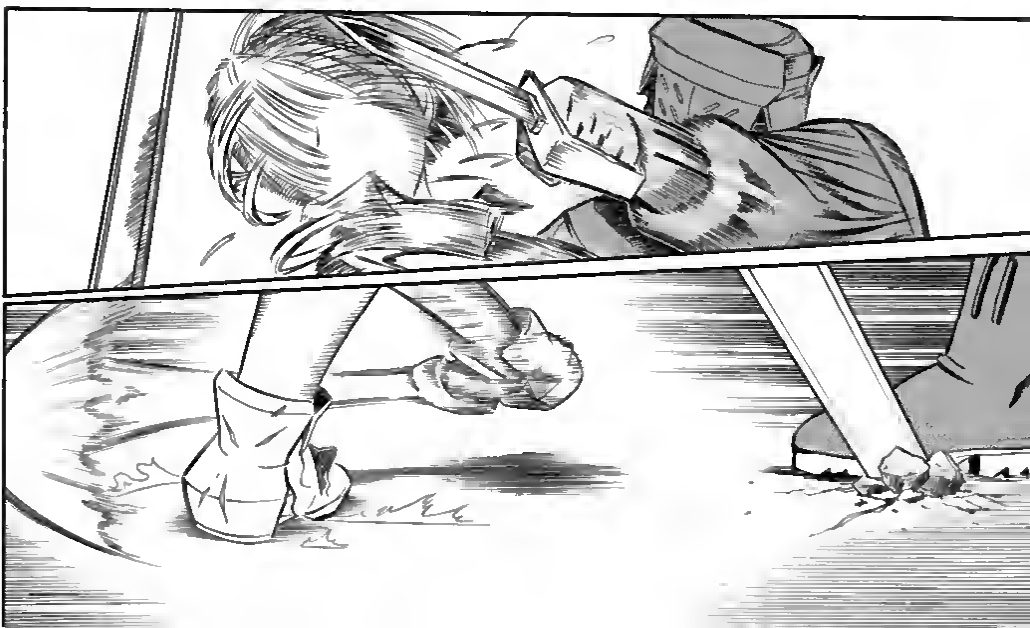


I'm surprised she's lasted this long.
She must be exhausted.
HUFF
HUFF
PUFF
PUFF
SW
IING
However...
BAMM


!
GAKK
KLAK

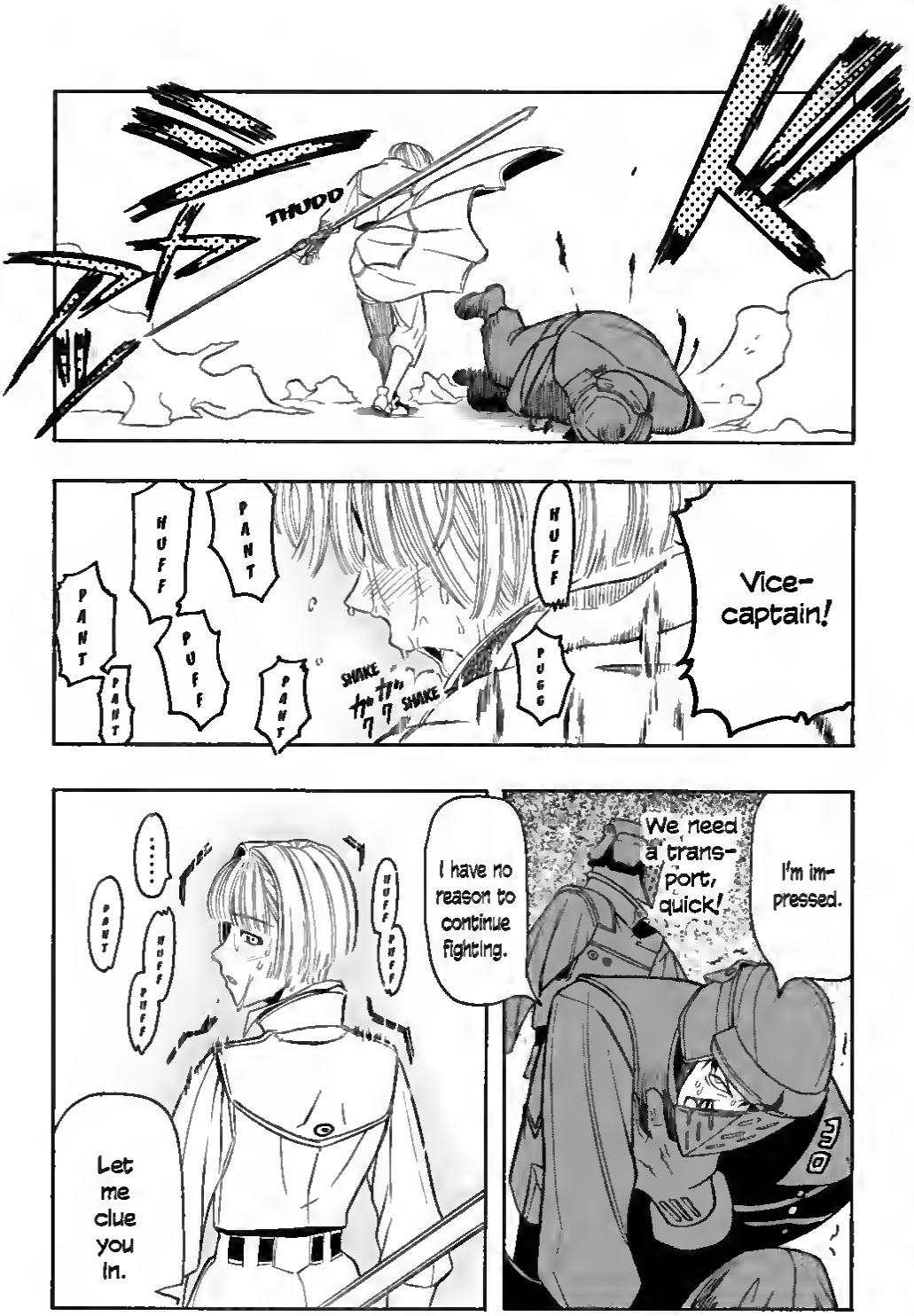

KLAK


The weight of your weapon is your undoing!



SLICE
CRAKKK
SPINN
This can't...

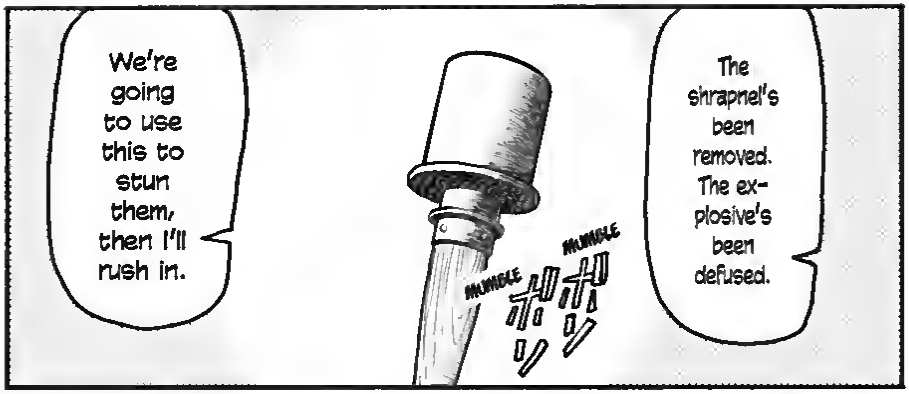
FLING
KICKKK
KRACK
Those armored boots
serve a purpose...

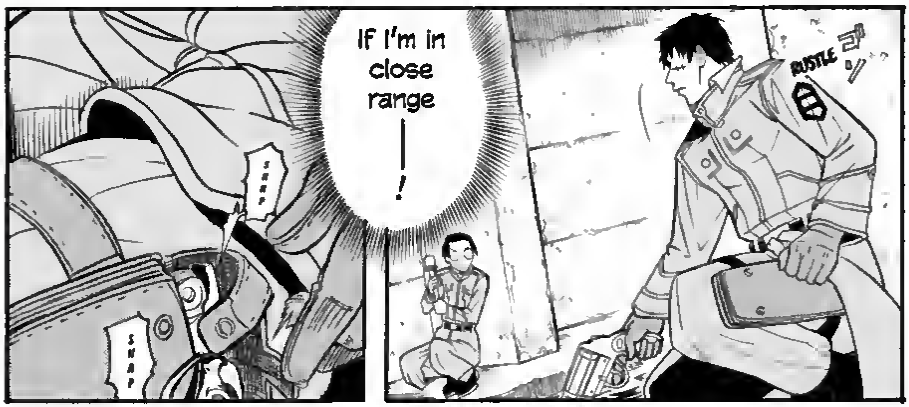

THUDD
HUFF
PANT
PANT
PANT
PUFF
PANT
PANT
SHAKE
SHAKE
HUFF
PUGG
Vice-captain!
I'm impressed.
We need a transport, quick!
I have no reason to continue fighting.
Let me clue you in.
PANT
HUFF PUFF
HUFF PUFF
.....

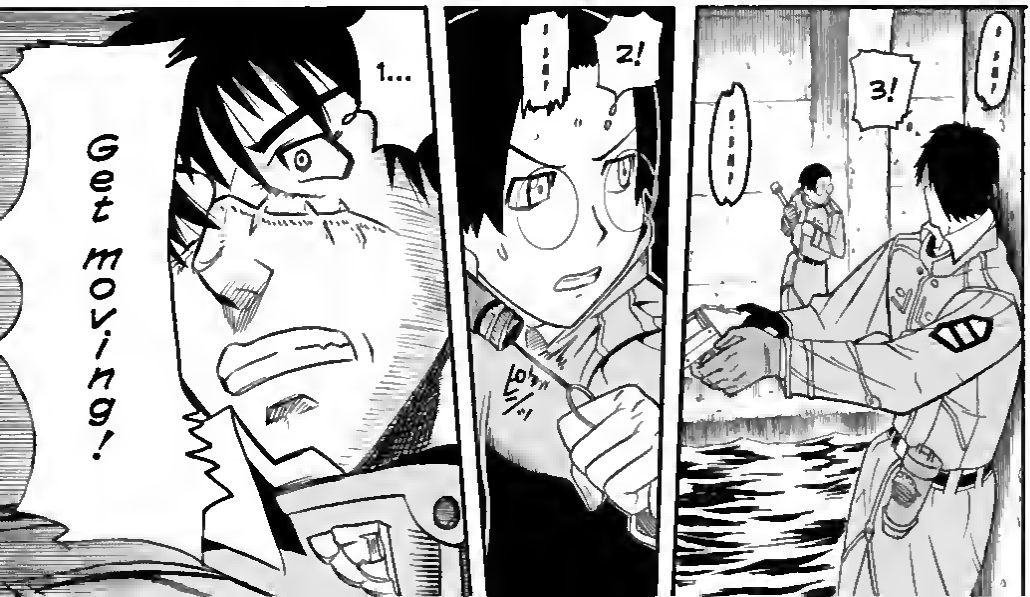
The real hunt starts when the lioness begins the ambush.
The male lion's job is to chase the prey.
The lioness will have no mercy.
Another unit!?
TURN
Machs!
Corporal!

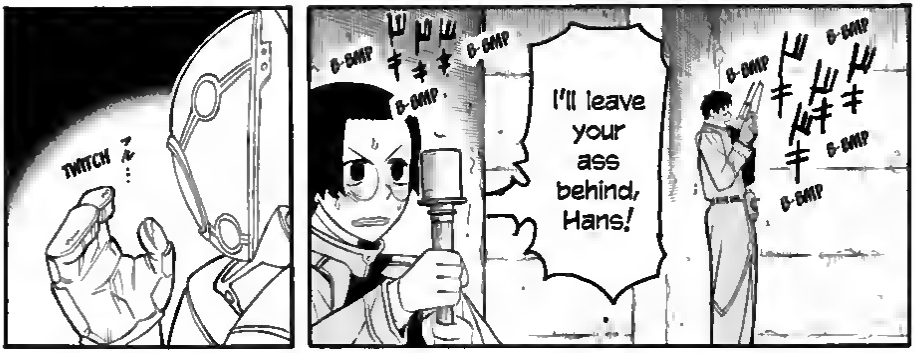
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
We have to hurry before they catch up!
You're cold again?

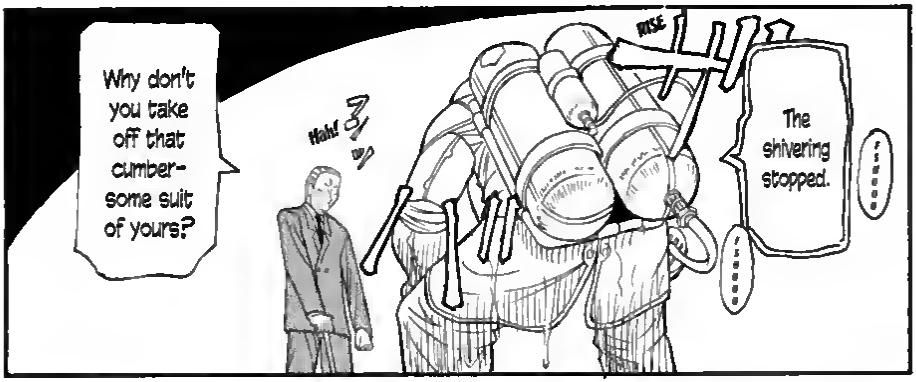
WHISPER
Can you shoot 'im from here?
RUSTLE
HMMM
WHISPER
We have to get closer.
Not if I'm going to aim for the shoulder or legs.
CAREFULLY
Grenades?

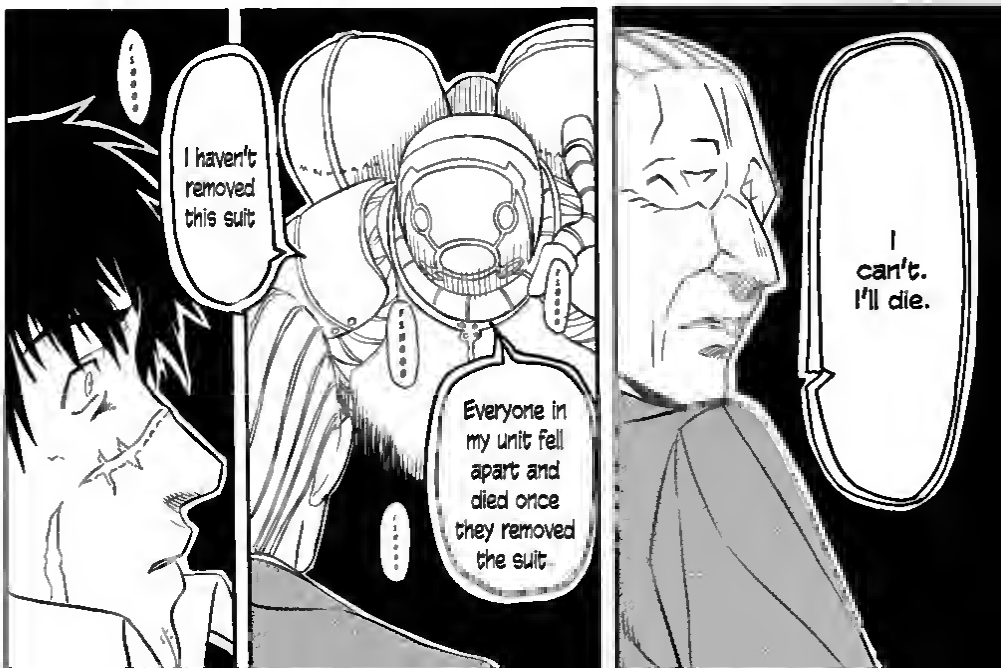

We're going to use this to stun them, then I'll rush in.
The shrapnel's been removed. The explosive's been defused.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


If I'm in close range—!
RUSTLE


1...
2!
3!
Get moving!


TWITCH
B-BMP
I'll leave your ass behind, Hans!

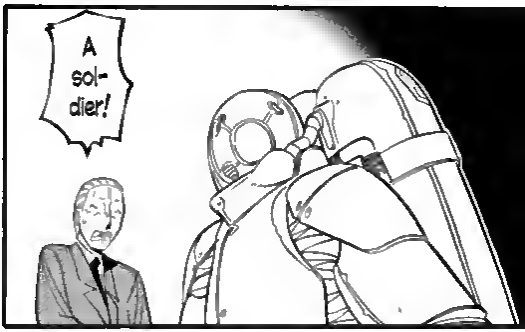

Why don't you take off that cumber-some suit of yours?
Hah!
RISE
The shivering stopped.

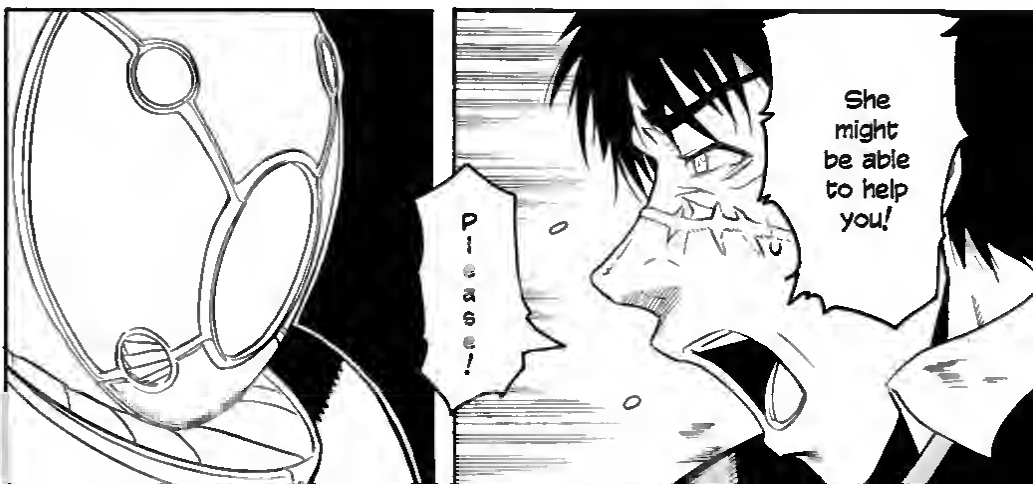

I haven't removed this suit
Everyone in my unit fell apart and died once they removed the suit
I can't. I'll die.

three years ago.
since the cease-fire
as long as I live.
I'll never remove this
I use the provided equipment to eat and eliminate.

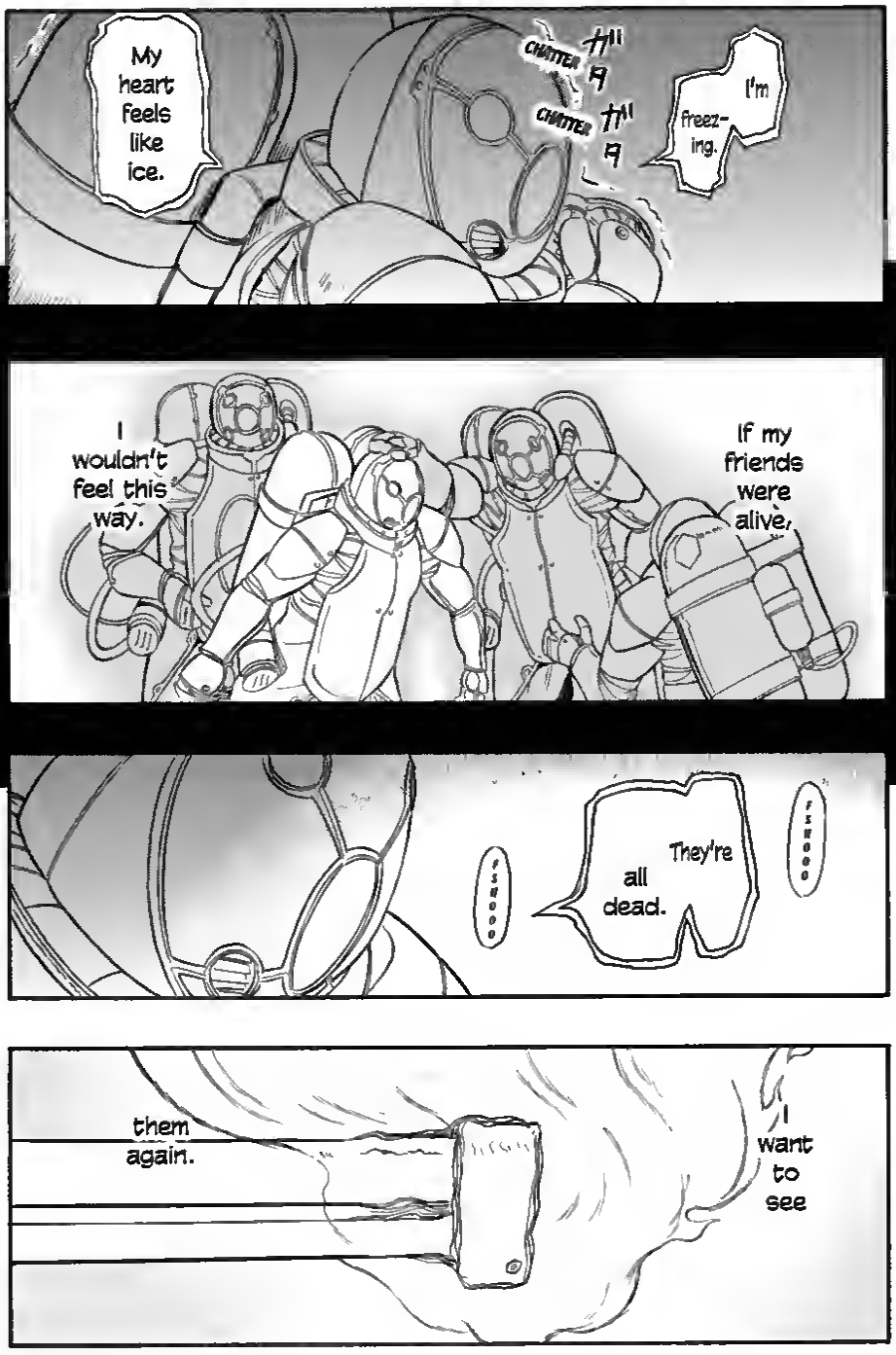
I want you
to surrender, 908.

I know someone at Caplan Institute.


A soldier!


She might be able to help you!
Please!

CLIKK
SWOOSH
When I got into this suit,
my body could no longer feel hot, warm, or cold.
Heat and warmth also disappeared
completely from my heart.
So why
did the coldness remain?


My heart feels like ice.
CHATTER
CHATTER
I'm freez-ing.
I wouldn't feel this way.
If my friends were alive,
They're all dead.
them again.
I want to see

I see them
in the flames.
That's why I
burn people.
When I set people on fire,
my heart feels warmer...

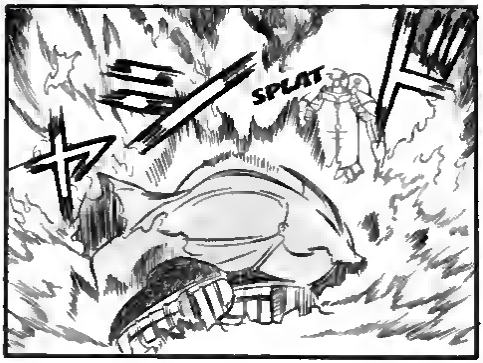
BWHOSH
Duck!
FLING
Corporal!
BOOM
GHH
SPLASH
RING
It wasn't close enough to stun them.
The flames forced it to explode too quickly.

RUNNING
RUNNING
What the hell is that light?
RUNNING
They
Will o'wisp.
RUNNING
FSOOOO
FSOOOO

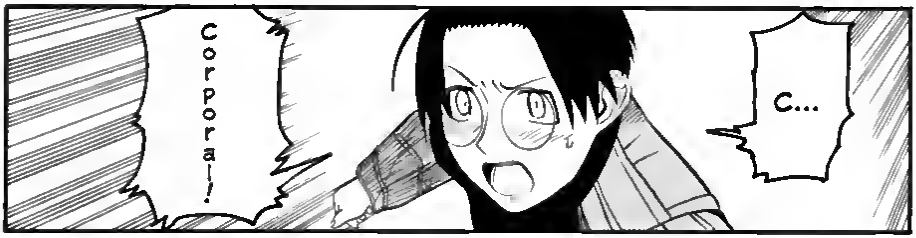
midnight glow.
march among the
DASH
BLOORSCH

BLASST
WHOOOSH
WHOOOSH
Your flames aren't work-ing!
STOMP
Hey!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
SPLASH

SNAP
STAGGER


SPLAT

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE


Corpora!
C...

Stop your brain, stop every-thing.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SNAP
GASP
GASP
KOFF
ROOOAR
Flames will smother your breath...

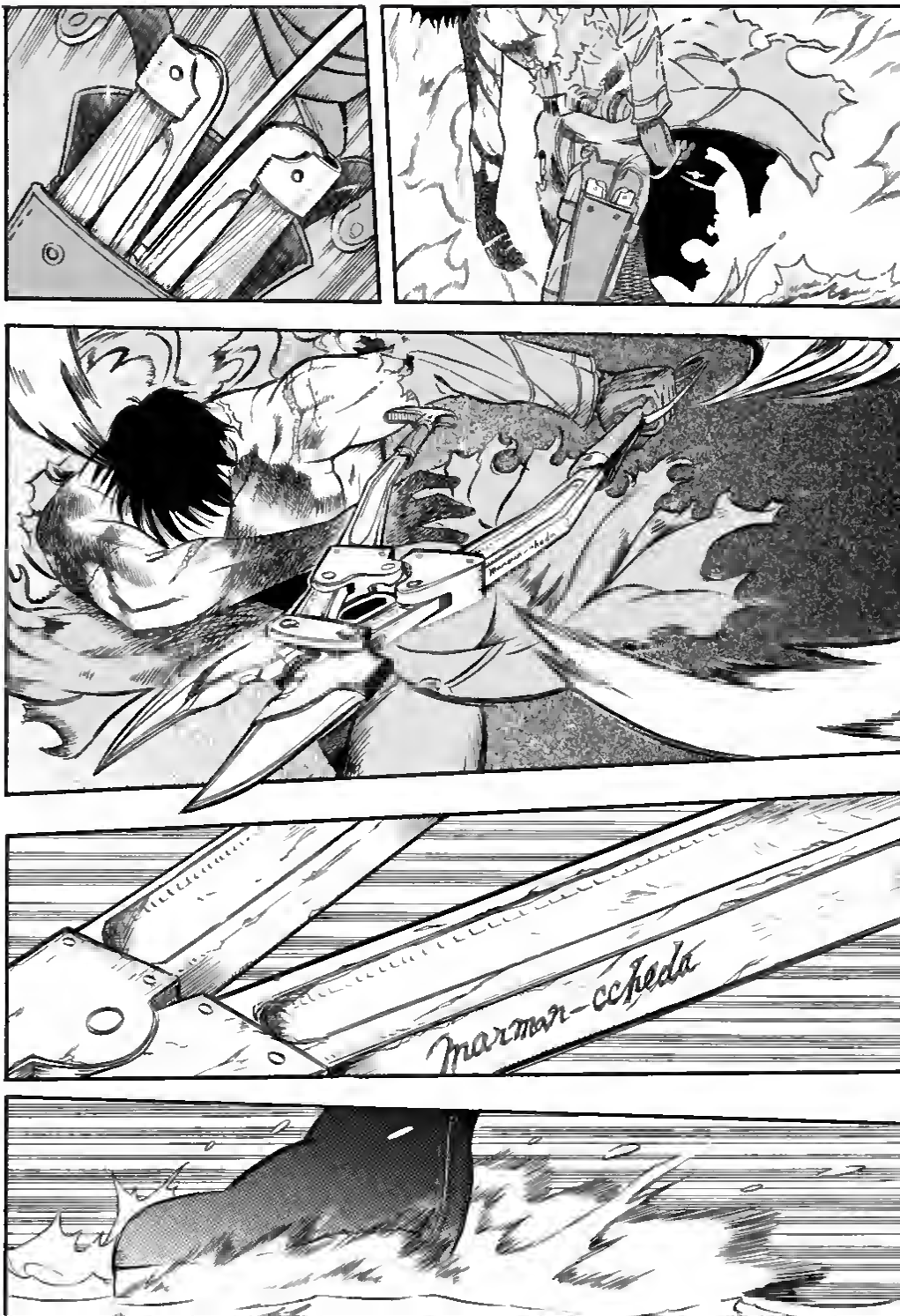
Water won't put out those flames.
FSOOOO
FSOOOO
You lose.
FSOOOO
CLUTCH
TUG
SHAKE
SHAKE
I'll burn it up before it gets close.
Won't work.
JOLT
Another grenade!
He's too weak to throw it!
Corporal!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

ズドォォ
BWHOM

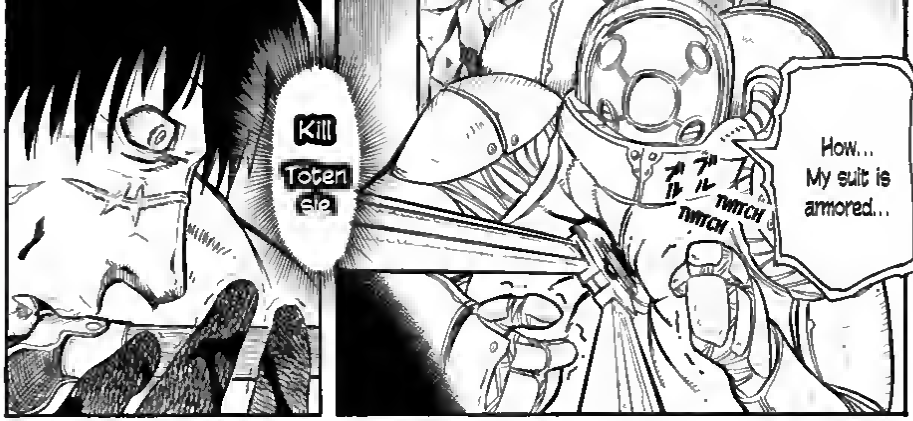
901 ATT...
RIIING
The flames...
GASP

He just blew off the
flaming skin and clothes!!

GLARE


marmar-ccheda

STABBB


Kill
Toten sie
How...
My suit is armored...
TWITCH
TWITCH

SQUEAAAK
PUSH
SQUEAAAK
!

UH...
HHH
My protec-tive solu-tion...
SPLASH
SPLASH
CRACKLE
SPLAK
PUSH
RIPPPP
SPLIT

Kill
Töten sie
Kill
Töten sie
Kill
Töten sie
Kill
Töten sie
Kill
Töten sie

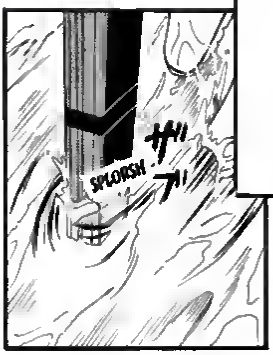
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
THWIP
THWIP
PANT
PANT
PANT
STAGGER
TUG
!
They're still.
RAISE
Why... did you stop?
FSHOOO
FSHOOO
You told me when we met...

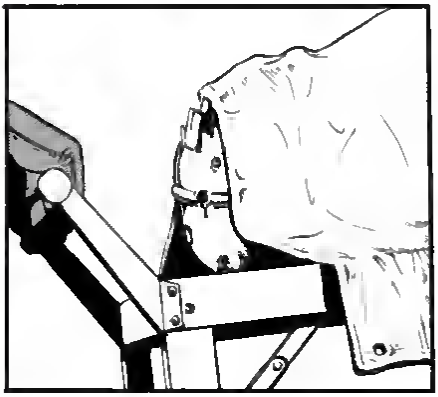
Fire the armor-piercing round.
Aim for the head.
We're on the same—
BANG
Fire!
I'm 908...

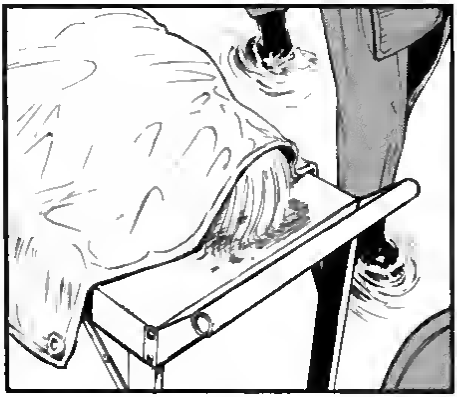
you're one of
I said
us...
SLOWLY
RAISE

SPLAT
Mion!
Who shot him?
Did we hit Mion?
Stop shooting!
We all serve the Sterling Wheel.

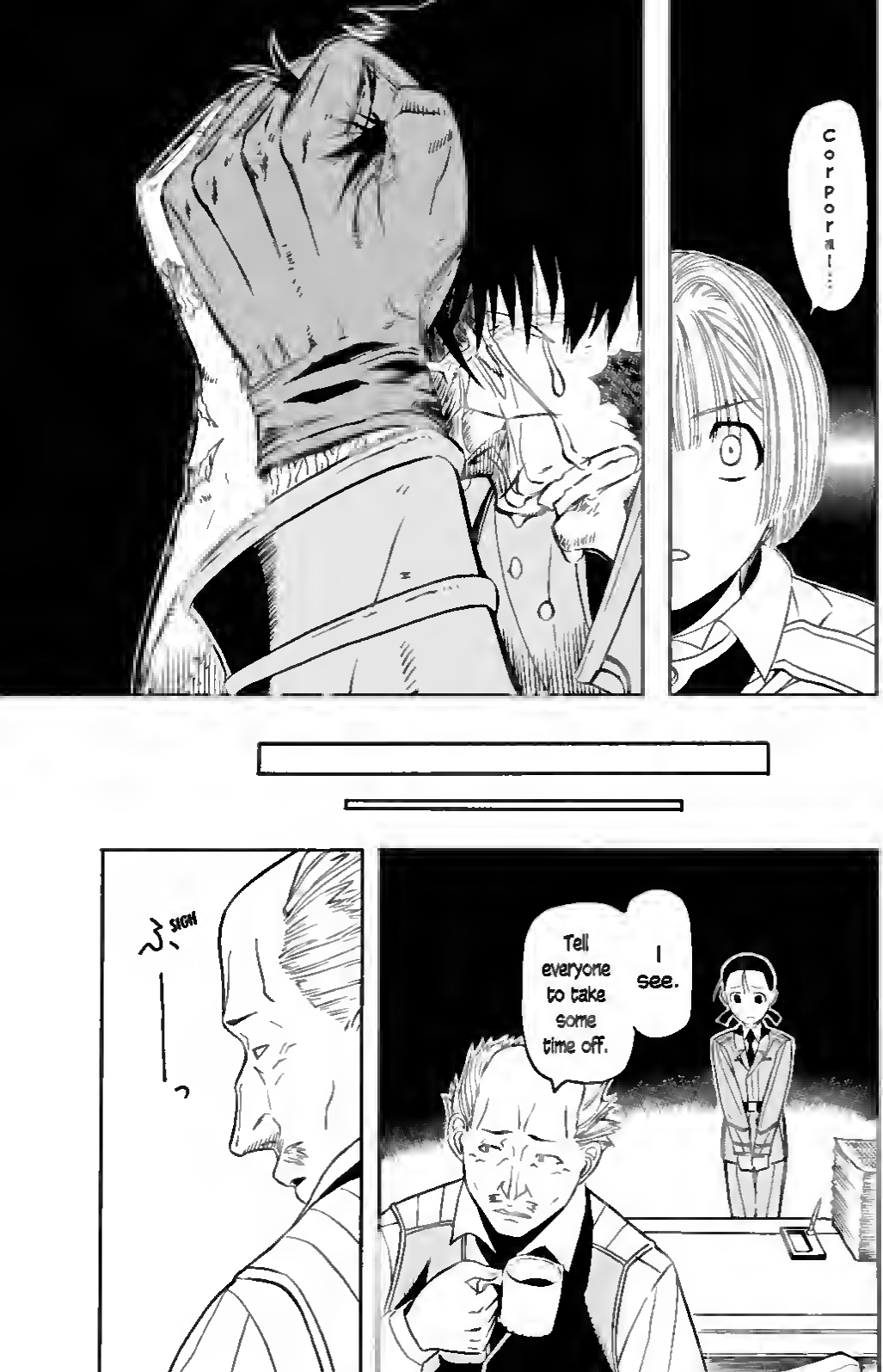
UH
WHAT?
SHIVER
SO...


SPLORSH





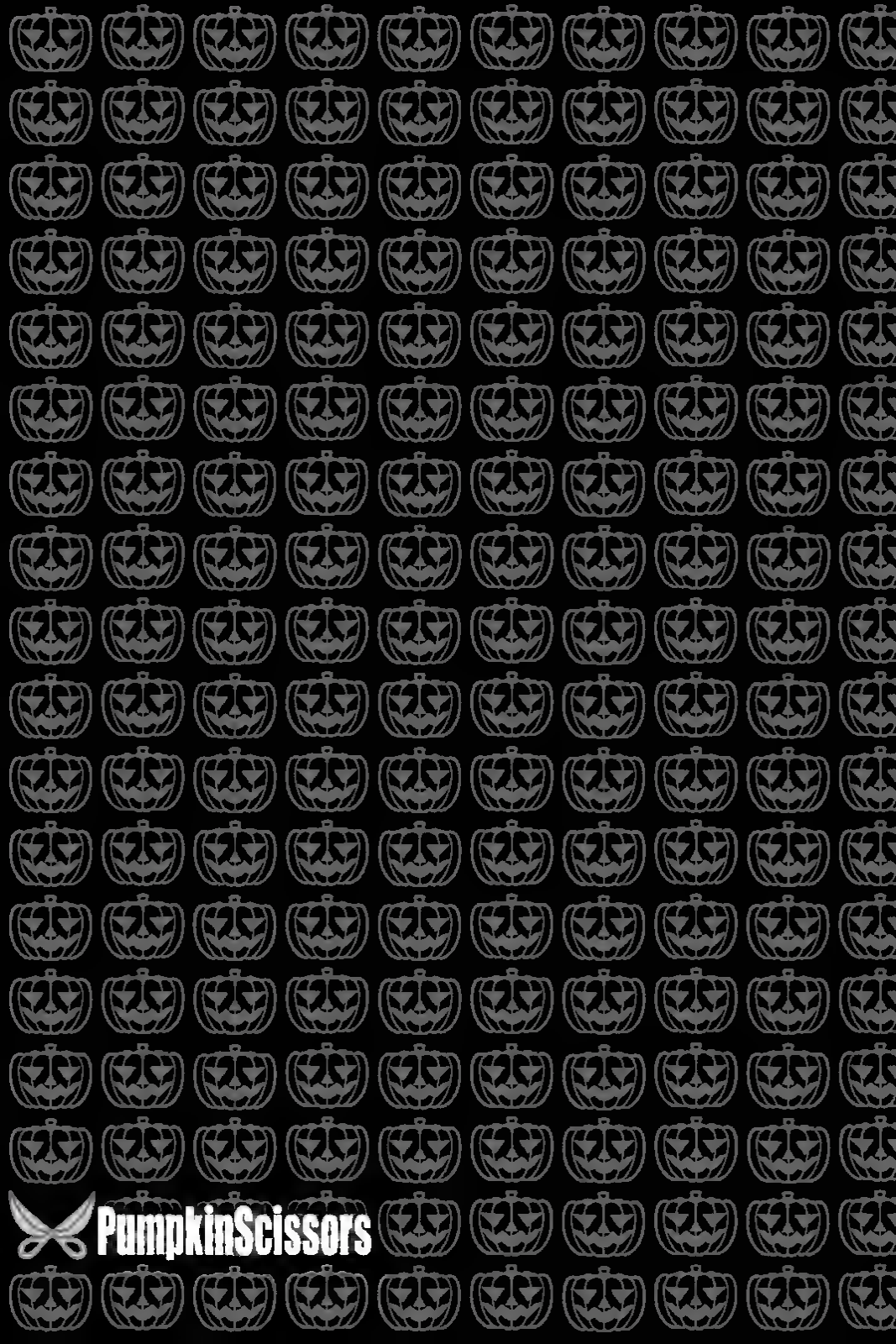
Oh... Lieutenant


Corporal!...
I see.
Tell everyone to take some time off.
SIGH

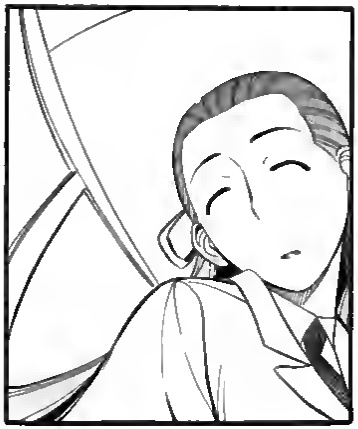
How come I
It's been 3 years since the cease-fire.

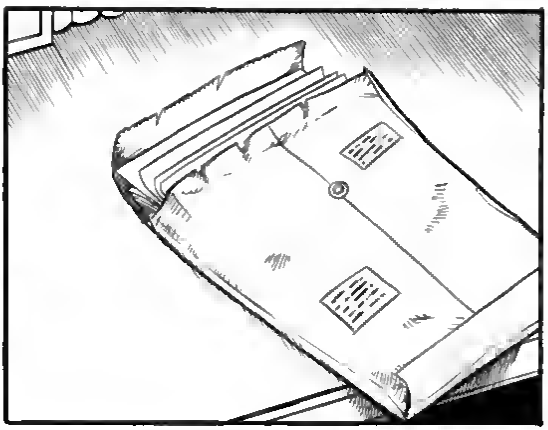
keep hearing gunshots every-where?

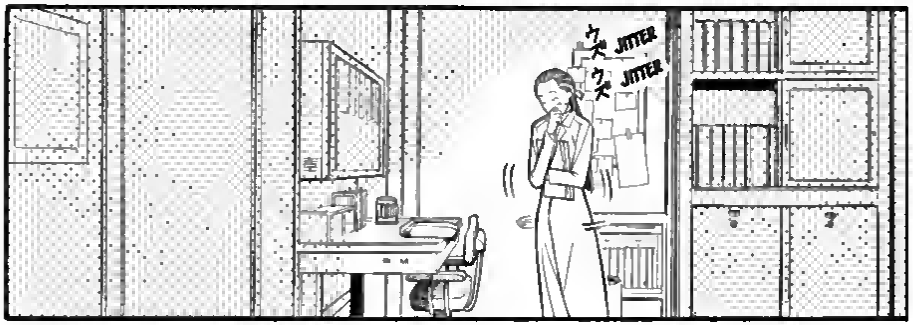
#8/ THE END

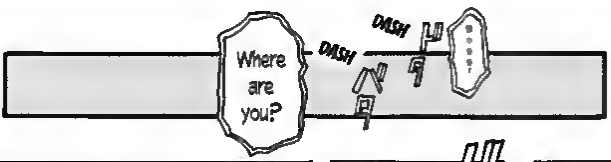

PumpkinScissors

Interval

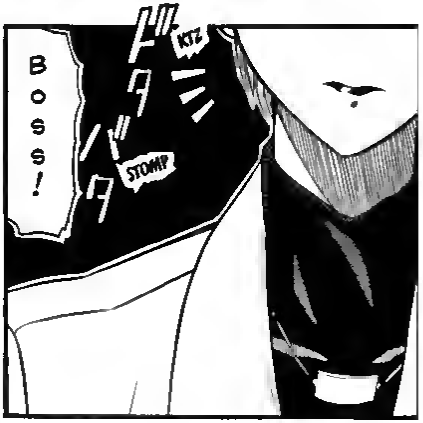


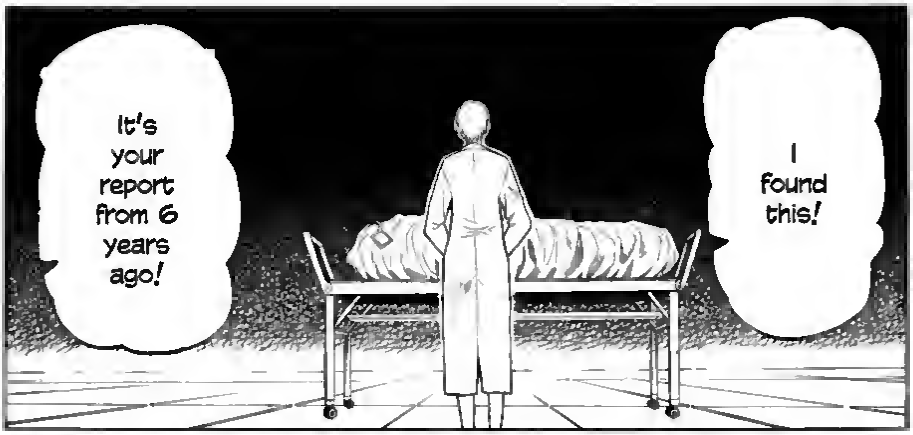


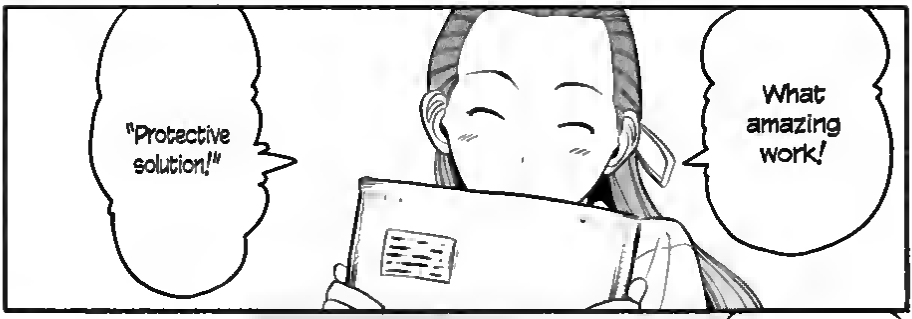

JITTER
JITTER

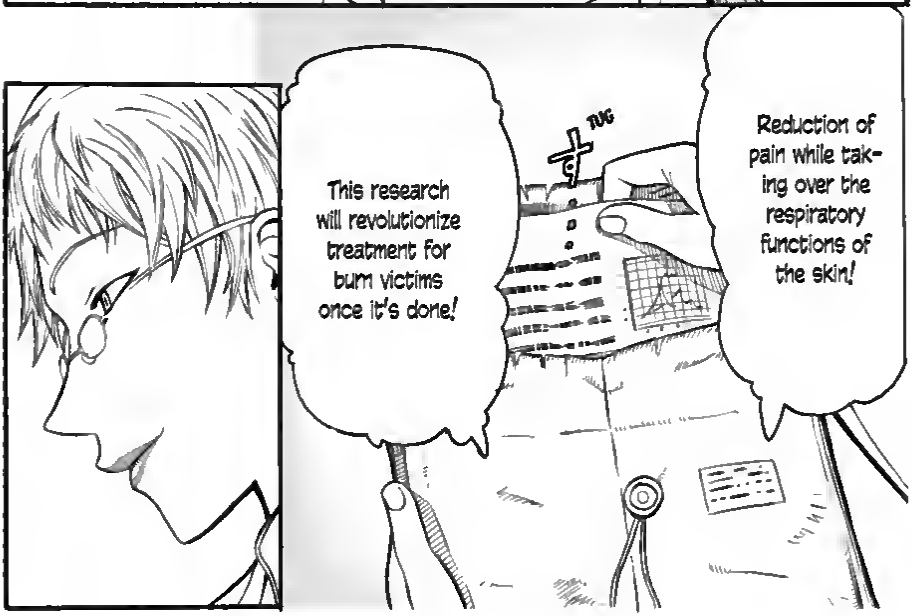

Where are you?
DASH
DASH

Oh! I didn't think you would be in here!
CATCH
K

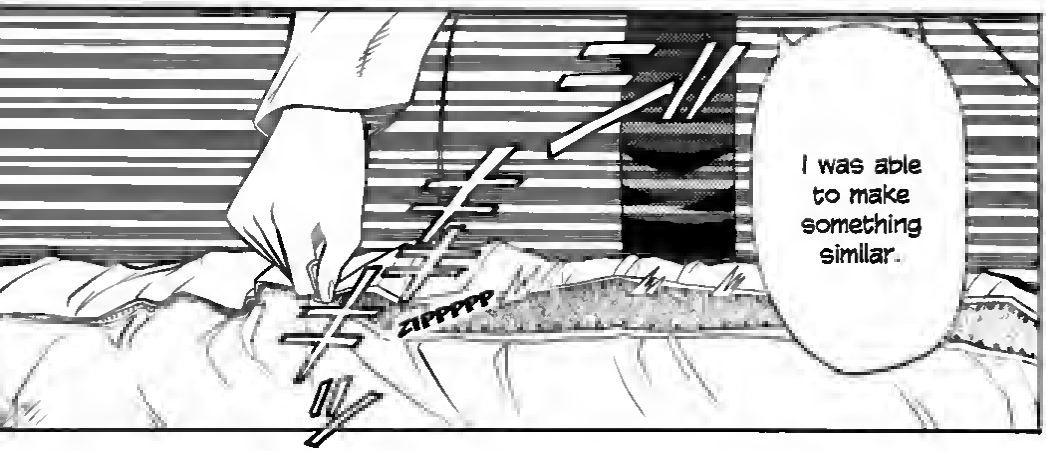

Boss!
KTZ
STOMP

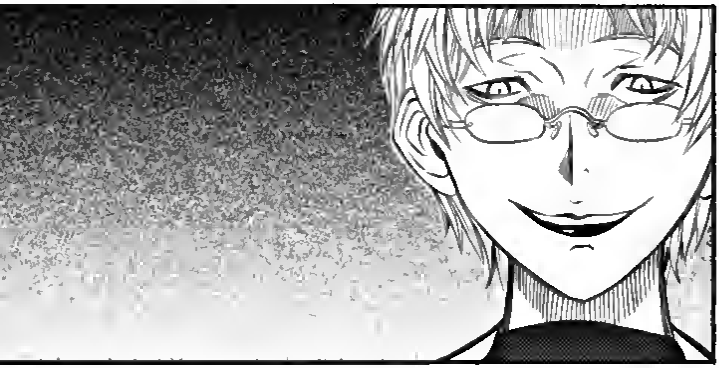

It's your report from 6 years ago!
I found this!


"Protective solution!"
What amazing work!

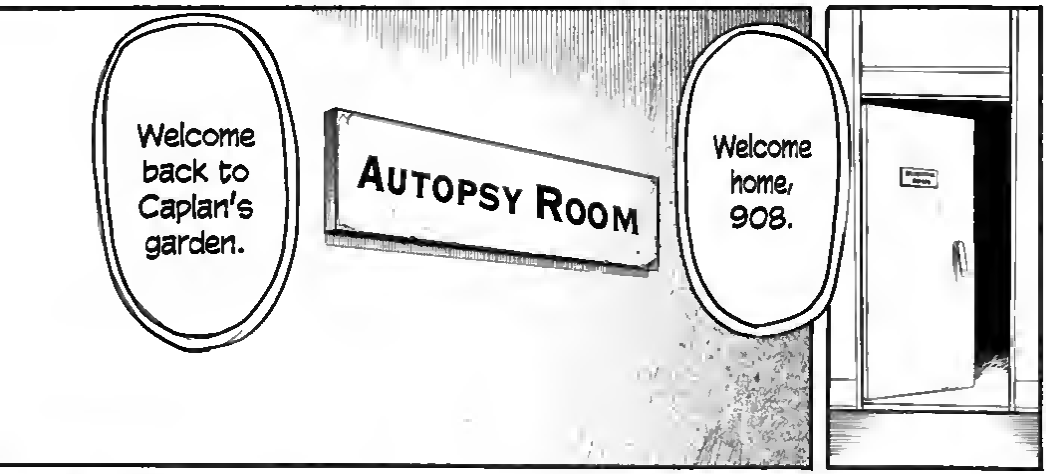

This research will revolutionize treatment for burn victims once it's done!
TUG
Reduction of pain while taking over the respiratory functions of the skin!

You can
toss that.
But...
Why?
We!!
Caplan had no interest in such research.

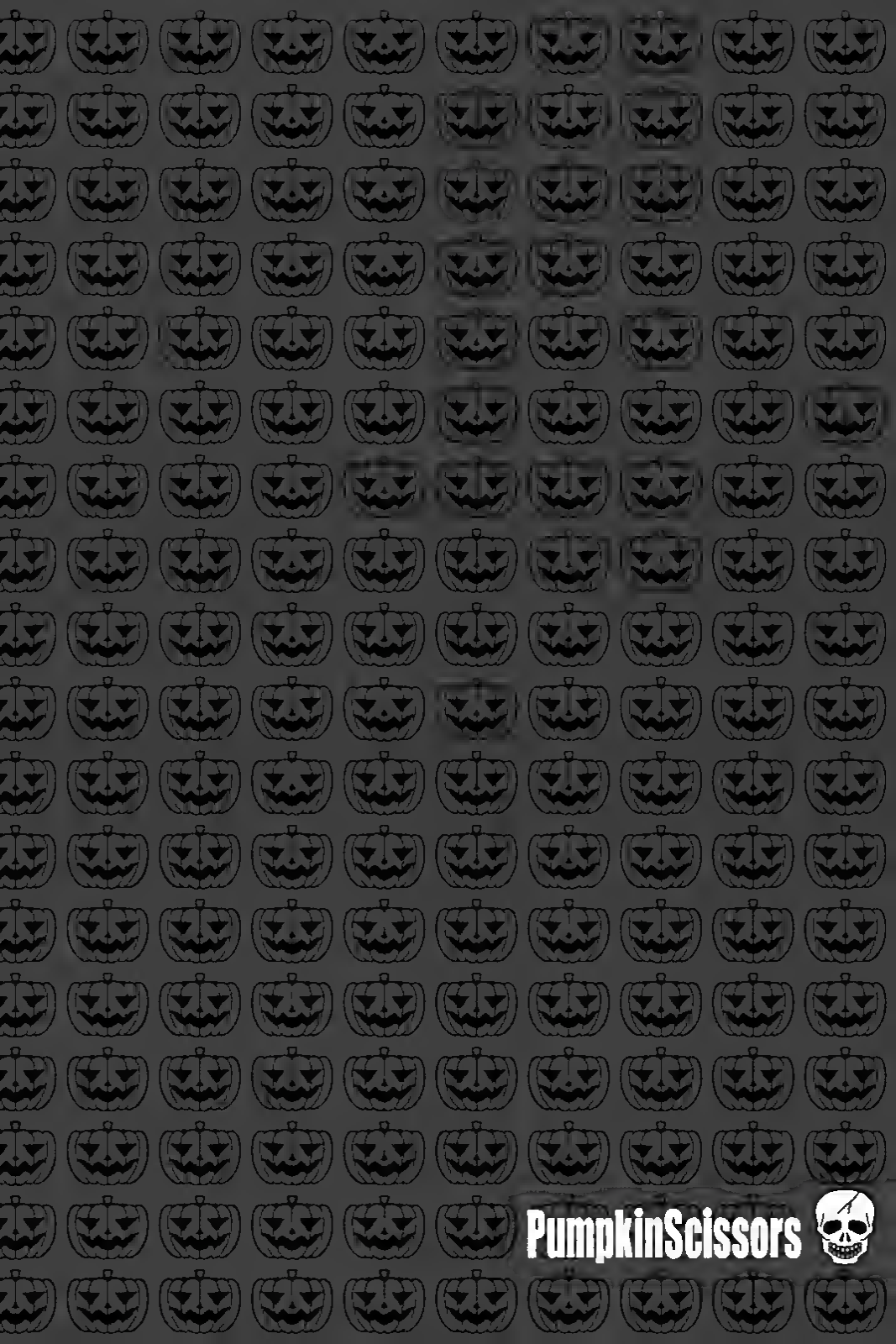

I was able to make something similar.
ZIPPPPP



!?

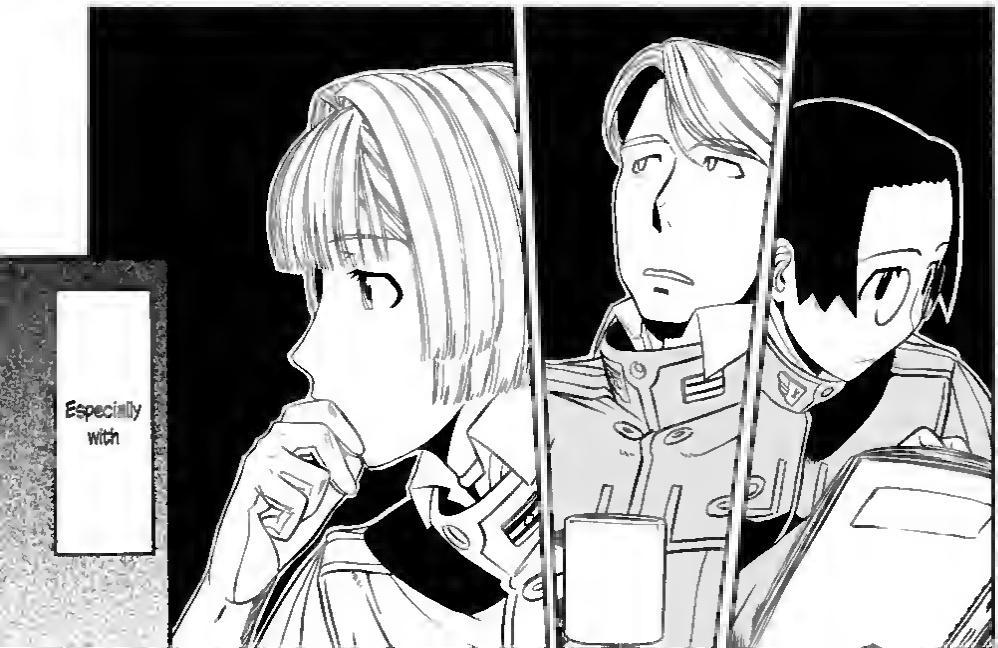

Welcome back to Caplan's garden.
AUTOPSY ROOM
Welcome home, 908.

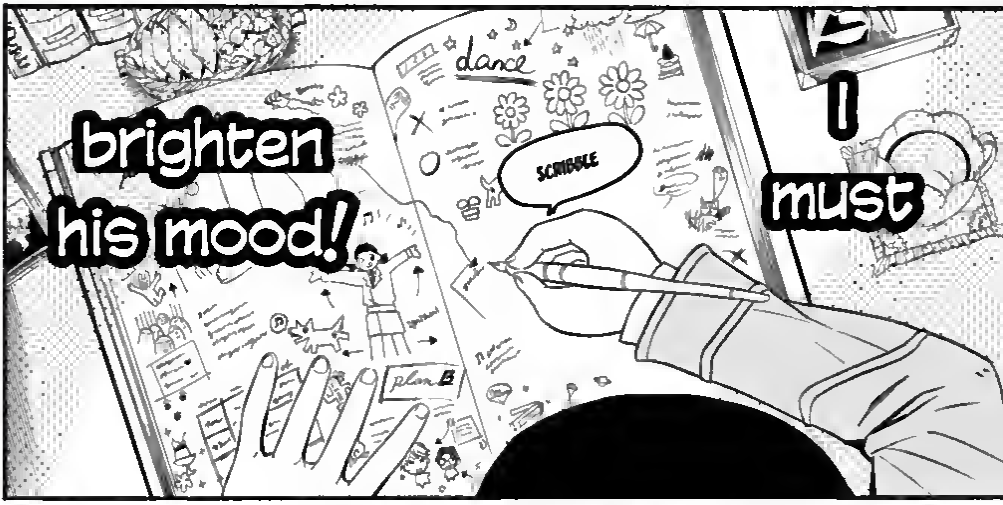
NEXT!


PumpkinScissors

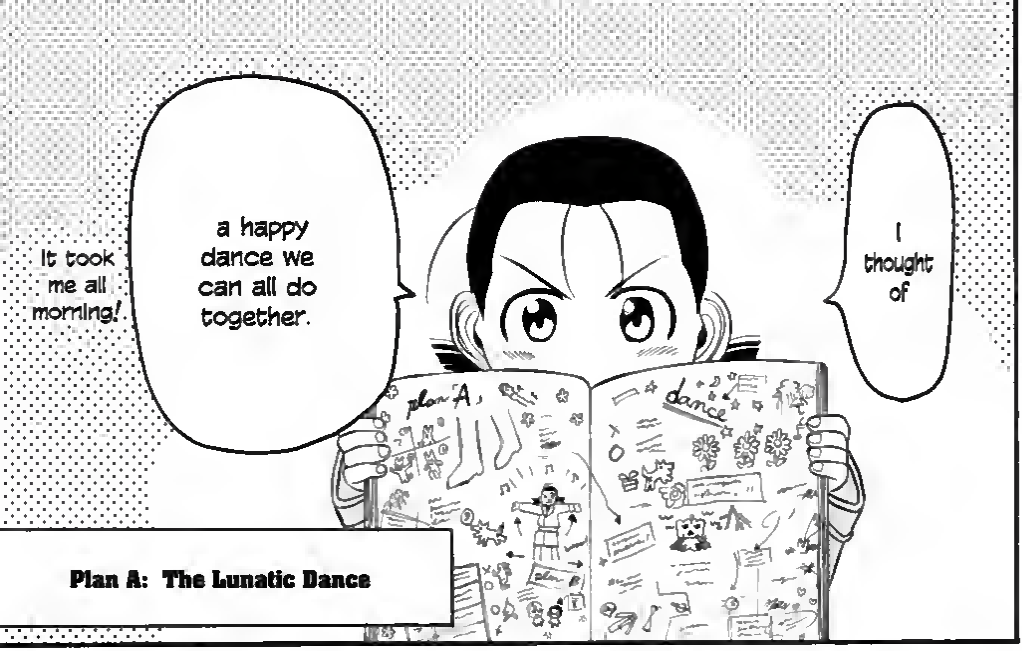
there's been tension in the air.
Ever since the Waterworks incident...
GRRR
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE

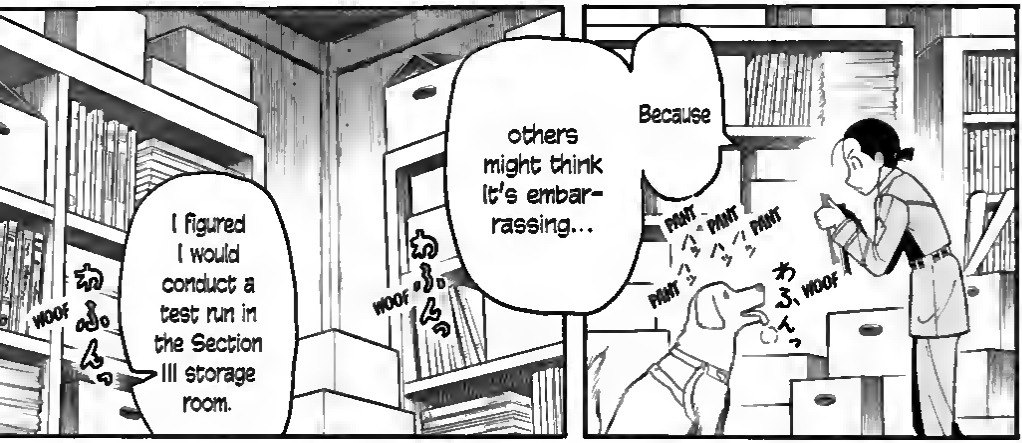
GLANCE

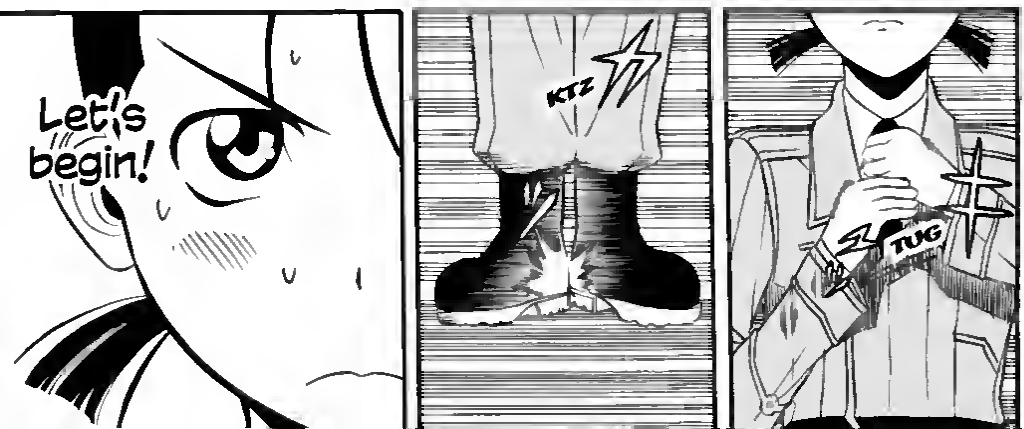

Especially with



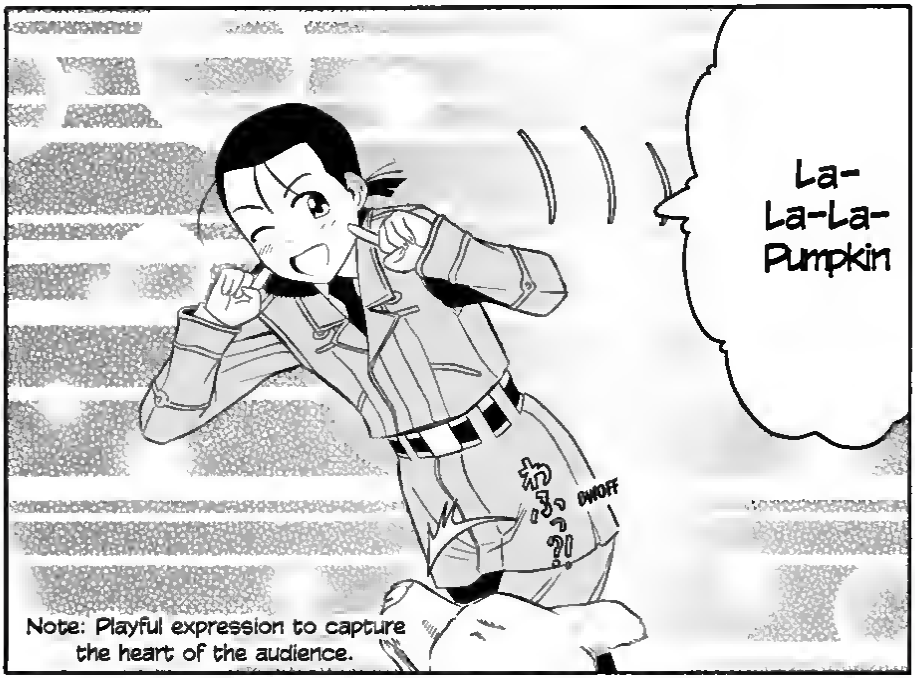
† Episode 9 Lillipat Army


It took me all morning!
a happy dance we can all do together.
I thought of
plan A
dance
Plan A: The Lunatic Dance


I figured I would conduct a test run in the Section III storage room.
WOOF
others might think it's embarrassing...
Because
PANT
PANT
PANT
WOOF

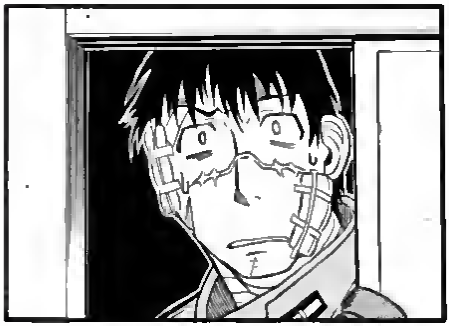

Let's begin!
KTZ
TUG

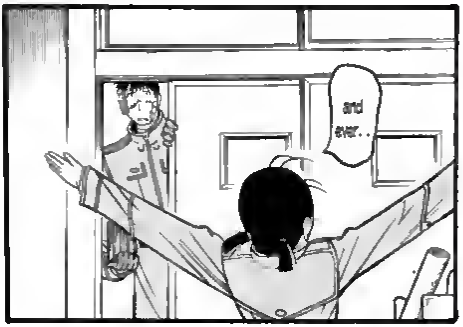
Pa-Pa-
Pa-
Pumpkin
Important: Start out with enthusiasm.


La-
La-La-
Pumpkin
Note: Playful expression to capture the heart of the audience.

Scissssssors...
(Quiet)
Focus your spirit...
Scissors!
(Loud)
PANT
PANT
and...
release!

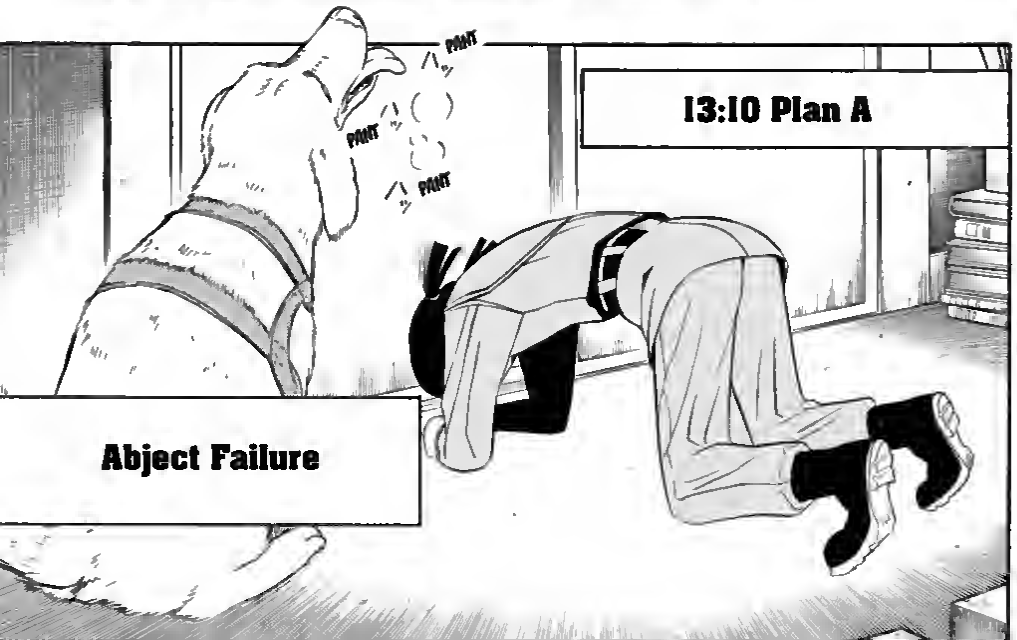
I should keep this to myself forever
WILT
しなっ…
This is way more embarrassing than I imagined.

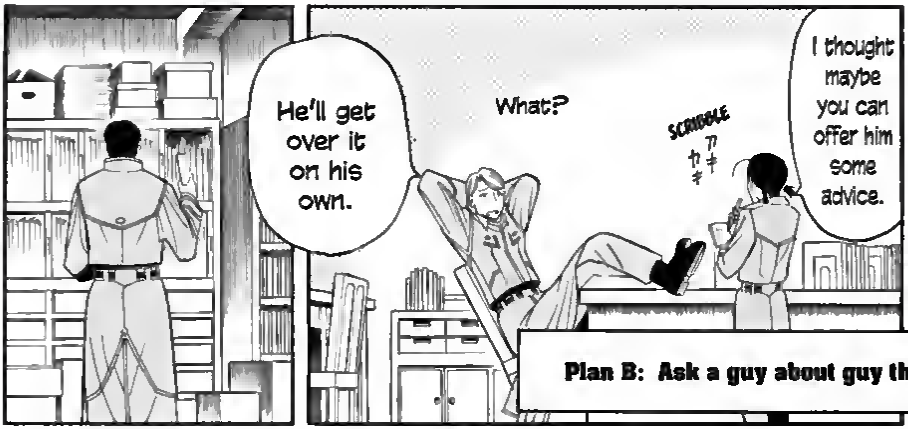



and ever...

People have the right to
the freedom of religion.
LEAP
LEAP
No, no this is a misunderstanding, Corporal!
You don't have to look at me like that! Don't turn your back!

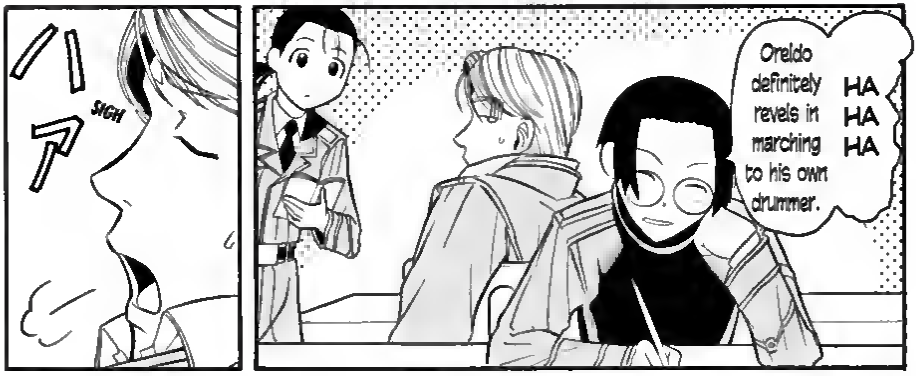
THUD
SLIDEEE


PANT
PANT
PANT
13:10 Plan A
Abject Failure


He'll get over it on his own.
What?
SCRIBBLE
I thought maybe you can offer him some advice.
Plan B: Ask a guy about guy things

Hmmm
good at being yourself.
Well, you're
SIGH
I've got a lot on my mind.
Why are you askin' me?

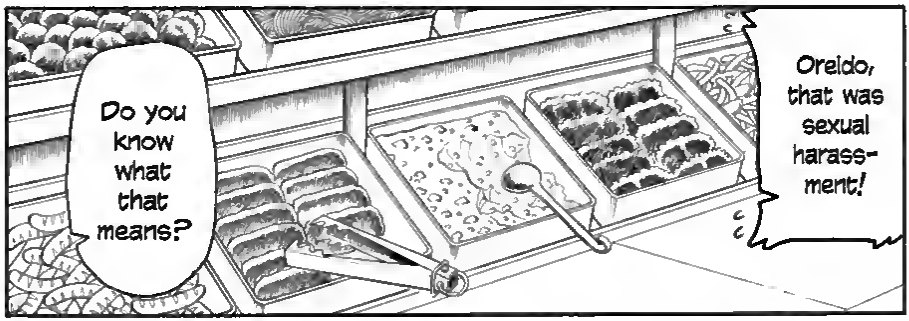
I... see.
comfort-able in his skin.
You can clue him in...
I don't know of anyone else who's so

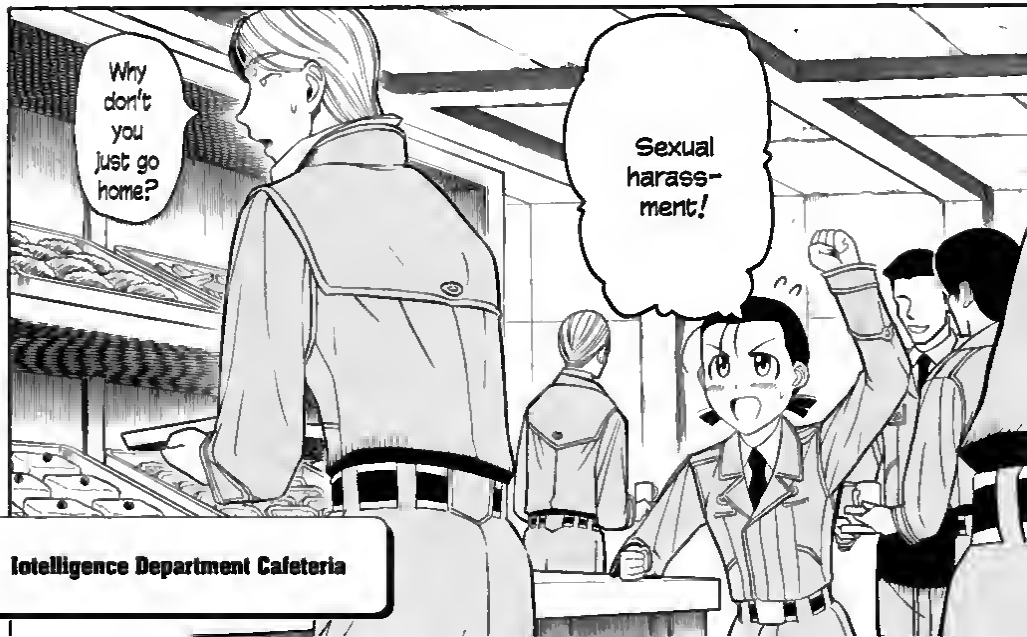

SIGH
Oreldo definitely revels in marching to his own drummer.
HA HA HA

NOD
NOD
Sure. Where are we going?
A happy place for men.
Big guy, come with me.
CLATTER

No...
13:30 Plan B—
Something all men enjoy.
THRUST
THRUST
Happy place for men?

GAAH
GAAH
GYAA
GYAA
わーい
ギャーン
……
Will you guys get to work?
NO NO NO NO!
—Implosion—


Do you know what that means?
Oreldo, that was sexual harass-ment!


Why don't you just go home?
Sexual harass-ment!
Intelligence Department Cafeteria

How dare you!!
He really is depressed.
GLOOMY
So much tension...

JOLT
ever since the waterworks incident–
I just wanted to say that

I don't know what went on down in the sewers.

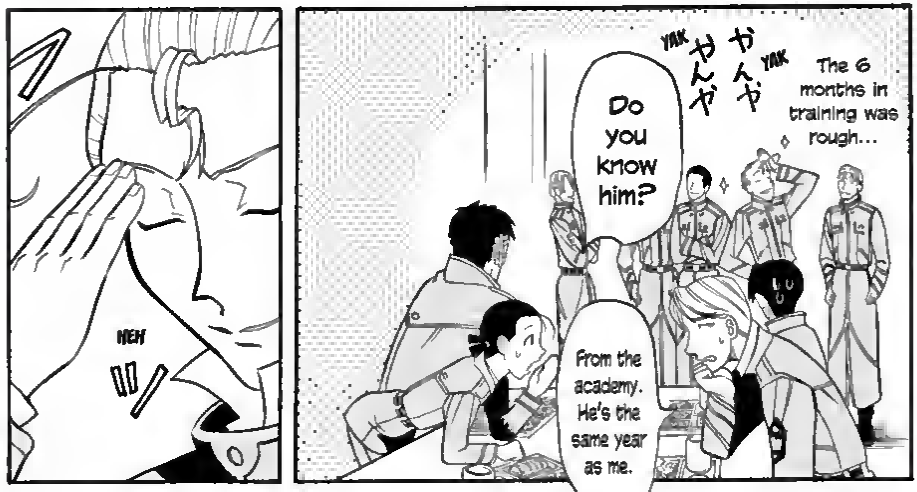
We got refugees out of there and crushed the drug trade.
You did your god-damned job.

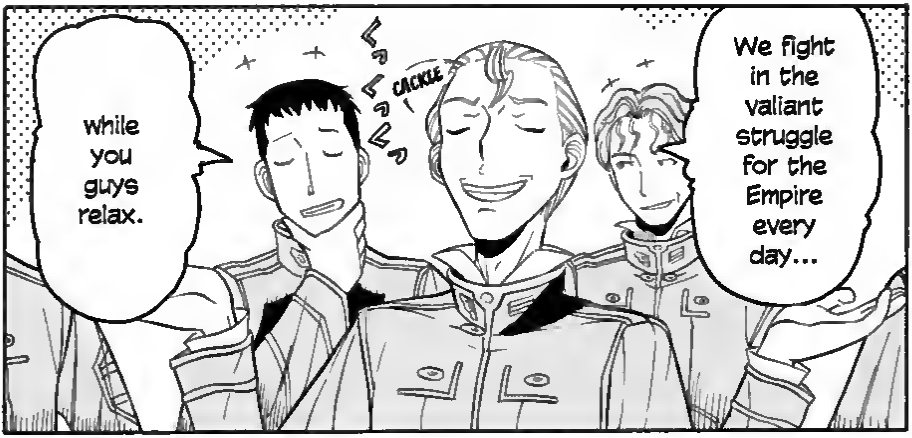
Not every-one made it out alive.
So what's the magic number, eh?
KTZ
What's with the pathetic argument happening over here?
...Oreldo?
How many people do we have to save to get your freakin' approval?

It's Section III!
DUUUN
Section I...
Section I, eh? What do you want?
They're not Claymore One.
JOLT

DUUUN
But... check out my Double Shotel emblem!
Uh...Heh! I admit I didn't make the cut for Claymore One.

The sting of a hornet! The Victor of intelligence operations!
The effect is just like the shotel!
We undermine our enemies through superior intelligence!


HEH
YAK
やんや
やんや
YAK
The 6 months in training was rough...
Do you know him?
From the academy. He's the same year as me.


We fight in the valiant struggle for the Empire every day...
CACKLE
while you guys relax.

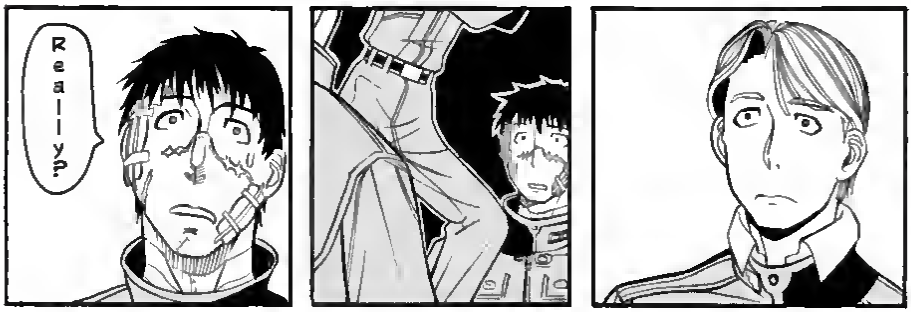
Recon-struction efforts, eh?
Did you save five people so far? Maybe ten?

You're running away?
SIGH
CLATTER
You have no pride, do you

Pumpkin Scissors!
SHMACK
Could that be the name of her move!?

Stop!
hell....
What... the...
I can't watch you bully others, get it!?
Hey...
I just want to make sure ..
You're not trying to defend me, are you?
HUFF
I'm sorry.
What is it?
What?

I didn't know you were
also very depressed, Oreldo.

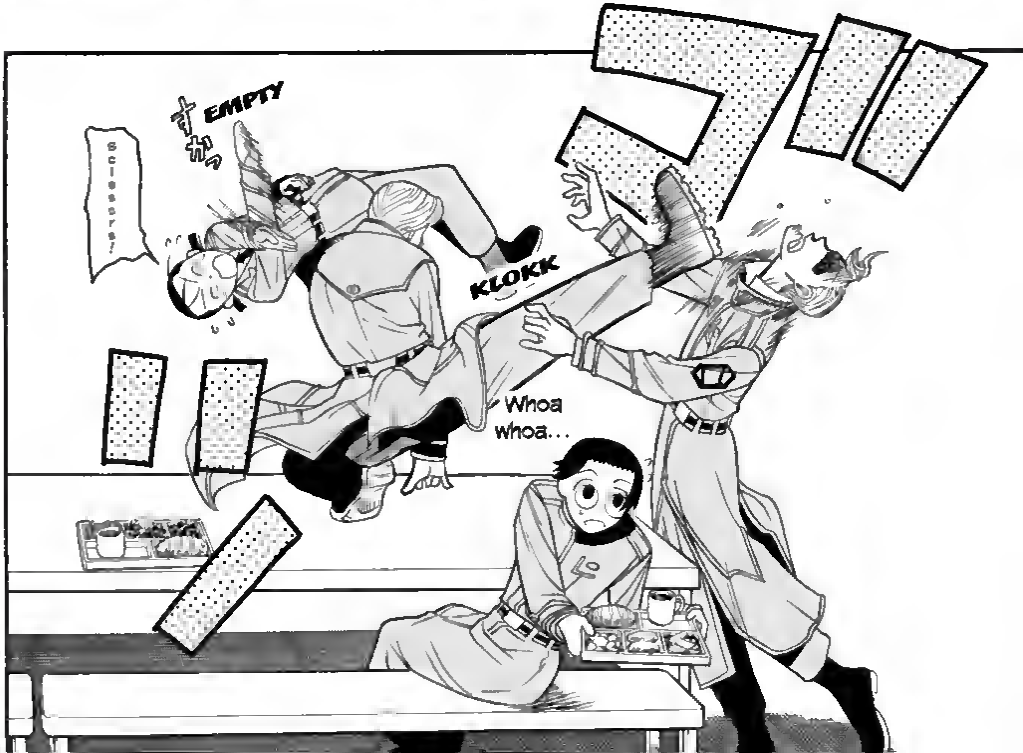

Really?

YAK
YAK
That kid from Section III's all pumped up!
What's going on?
I won't allow anyone to trash our unit!
Later?
GRRR
We can deal with you later.

Otherwise, I'll have to strike you once more!
YAK
YAK
You...
YAK
YAK
I'll let you go if you apologize.

Pu... Pumpkin...
Whoa!

LEAP
Stop making a fool of me, you twerp!

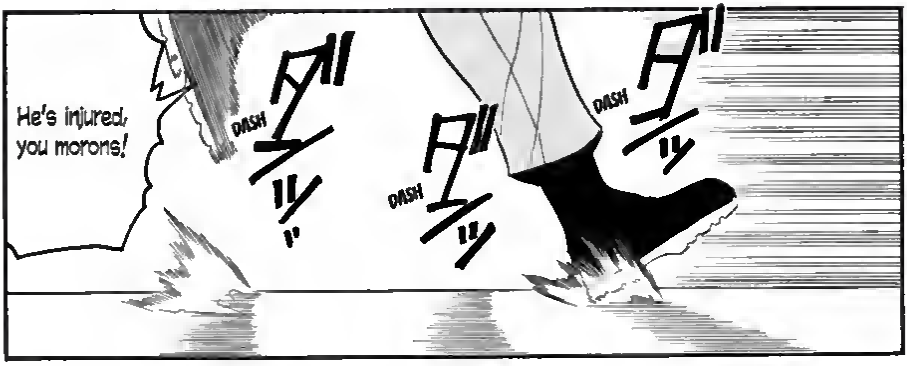

EMPTY
Sigggh!
KLOKK
Whoa whoa...

He's out.
Lemme down!
THUD
Crap! Lan!

Lemme down!
GLARE
Uhm... I'm not...
You asked for it!

I don't want to mess up my mug today.
Run.
What do we do?

JOLT
You guys again!!
WHOA!
DASH
Stop, you bastards!
The big guy won't fight back!
The corporal's getting beat up!
Oh no!
BONK
BONK
TOSS
KYAAA
Slow poke!
Dammit!
SKIDDDD


He's injured, you morons!
DASH
DASH
DASH

Stop picking on

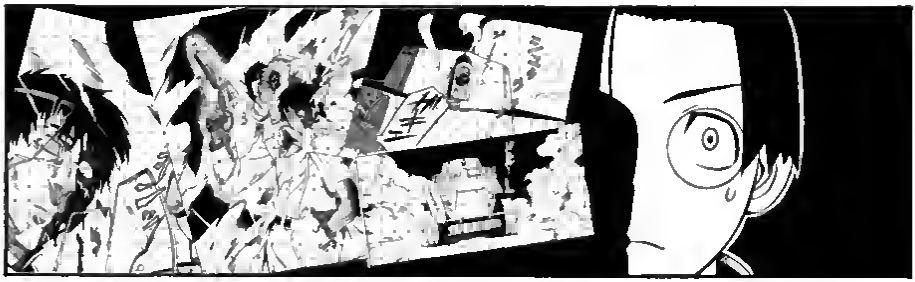
Let's kick his ass!
Ass-hole! You...!
Now they're both getting beat up.

him!
SLAMMMM

Me too!
Section III should know to back down.
I'm betting on Section I.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
What's the ruckus about? What is the loser unit fighting about?

First Lieutenant Webner!
What are you doing here?
Section III's odds are 1 to 16!
Place your bets!

About the armored vehicle.
They grilled me for details.
Thanks.
I was called here by Section I.



I didn't tell them about the Corporal's role in the whole thing.
Don't worry.

They were more interested in

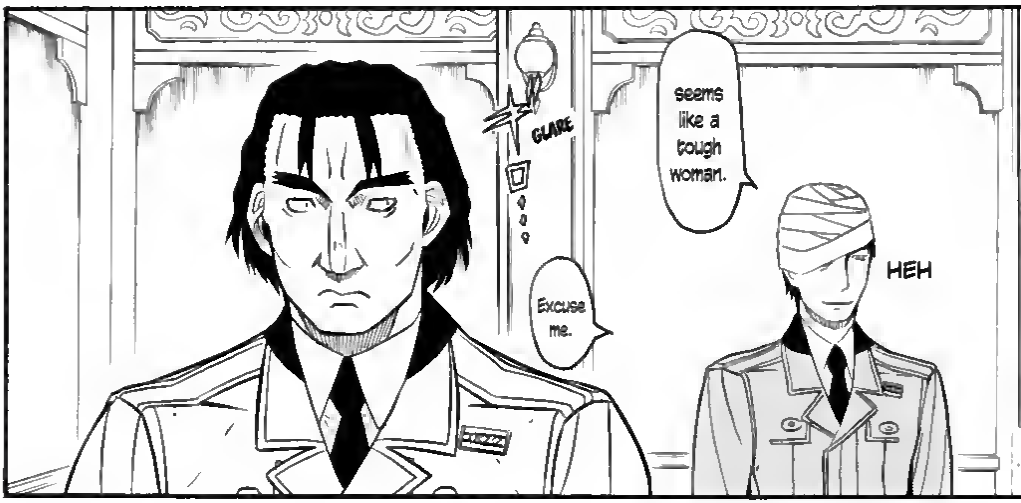
Why now?
the agents.

RUMBLE
WHOOSH

If you're a man,
Who knows?
go help out your mates!
SHOVE
Yes, ma'am!
They should be here soon.
Oh...
I should help!
JANGLE
HOLD
You're fine.

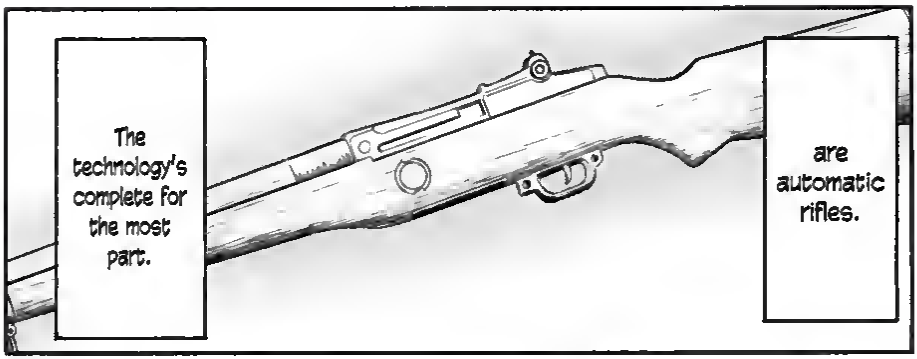
Crap!
It's security!!
What are you morons doing?
SLAM
We're arresting everyone involved!
It's a draw!
あっはっはっはっ
The proceeds go to the house!
Poor Macha... he jumped in for no reason.
Nah, I wanted to teach him a lesson.

Section 1st
Major Connery
Lieutenant Webner
He's been crashing too many of my cars!

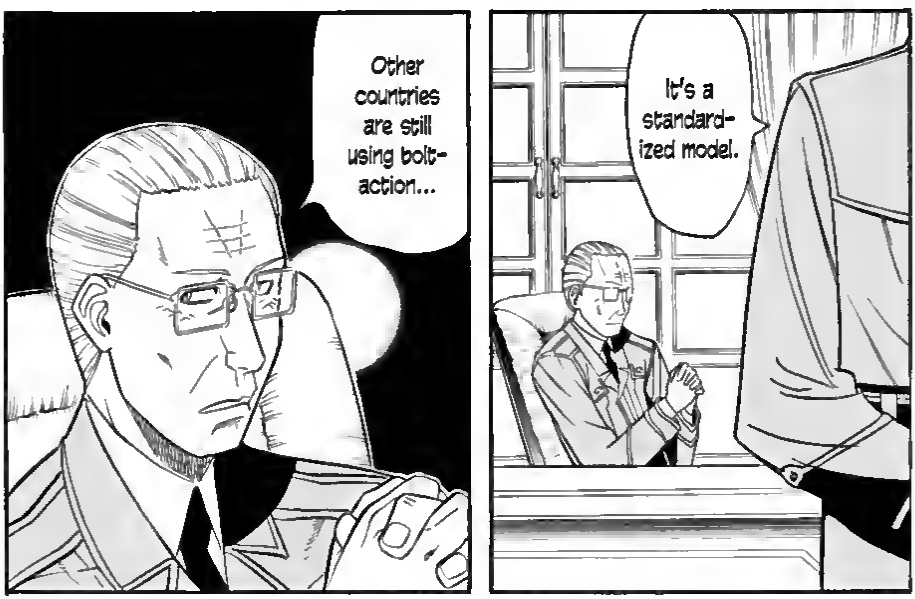

GLARE
Excuse me.
seems like a tough woman.
HEH

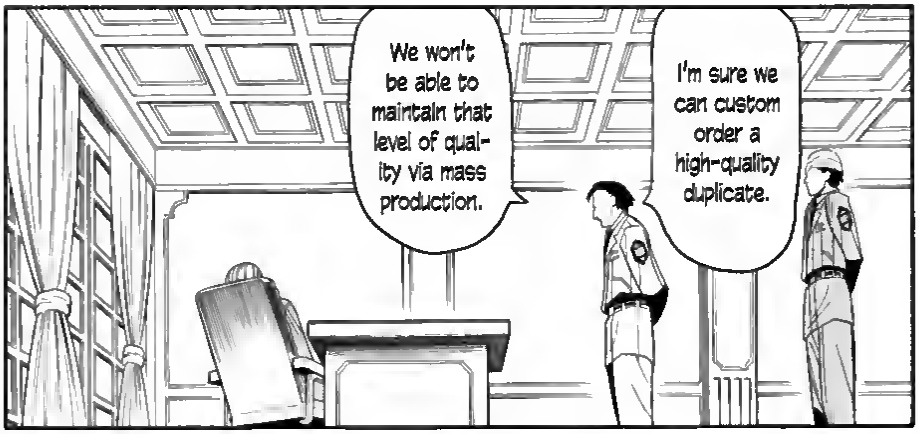
It's not like we can throw her down and torture her.
She used to be in weapons development.
CREAK

her testimony?
So, what do you think about
Regarding the connection with the waterwork operation?
This is strictly my personal opinion.
The firearms confiscated from the waterworks employees

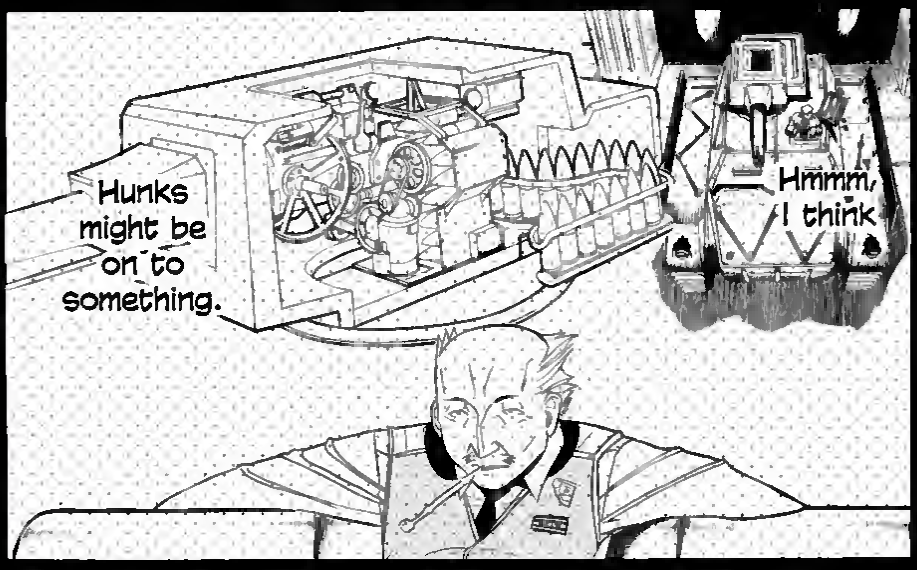

The technology's complete for the most part.
are automatic rifles.

No jamming at all.
We fired three hundred rounds as a test.
The ammo specs don't match those found in the data from the Technological Conference for Allied Western Nations.


Other countries are still using bolt-action...
It's a standardized model.


We won't be able to maintain that level of quality via mass production.
I'm sure we can custom order a high-quality duplicate.

CREAK
Yet, someone out there is doing exactly that.


Hunks might be on to something.
Hmmm, I think

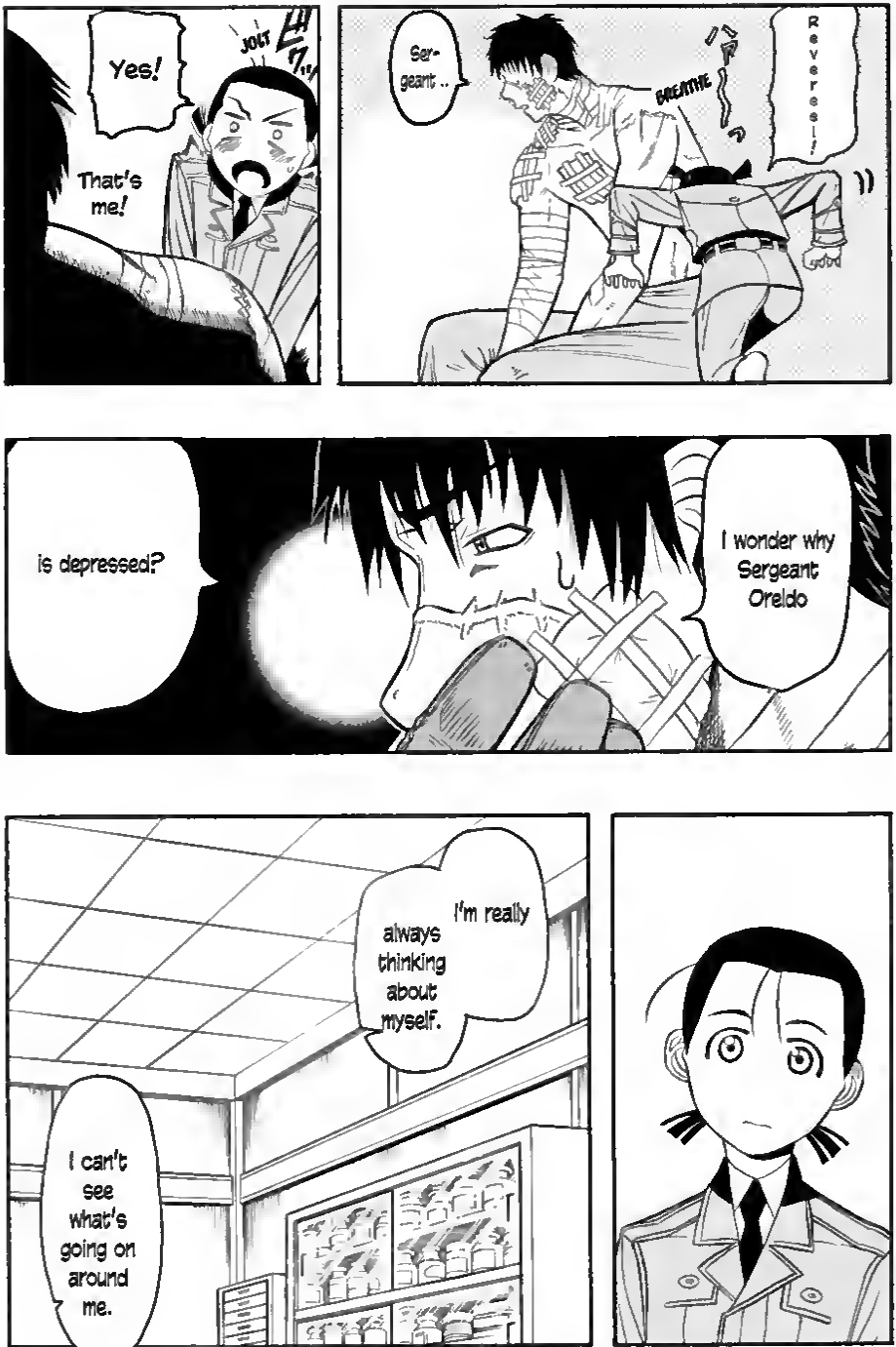
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ
Hm?
I wonder if our unit can have the automatic rifles?
You're excused.
CREAK
Then it's more important
Don't commend the enemy's technology.
For close combat, the Republic's revolver cylinders are preferable.
FLUFF
Oh...

She's the one who got past your twin blades.
That's Alice L. Malvin.
SLIDE
Hm...
I didn't think she was so petite.
MEDICAL ROOM
Medical Room
.....
We'll look like fools otherwise.
She didn't kill anyone with her sword. Ignore what happened. That's for the best.

I apolo-gize.
Your wounds were getting better.
URGH
He's becoming more despondent!

FLASH
Revesal! The Sexy Sigh!

Plan C Title
SIGH
I think Oreldo's idea is the only option left at this point...


Yes!
JOLT
That's me!
Ser-geant..
BREATHE
Reverse!!
Lydbrd
is depressed?
I wonder why Sergeant Oreldo
I'm really always thinking about myself.
I can't see what's going on around me.

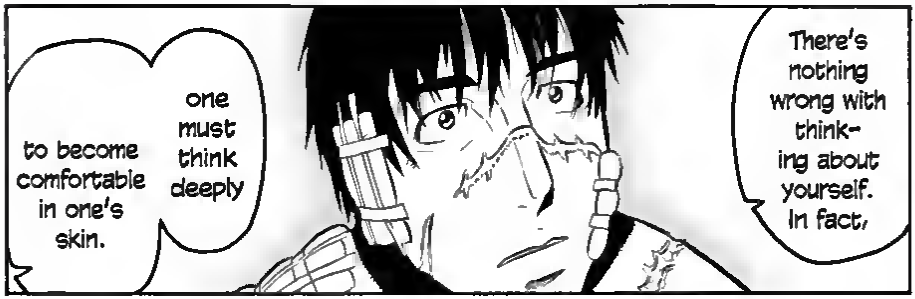
I wasn't able to save him.
That's probably why
I failed to see that people were concerned about me.
I failed. due to my despair.
I was only thinking of myself...
I'm not the only one with problems.

Cheer up, Feel better!
We're having delicious stew today!
Wipe your tears and enjoy!
Let's dig in!!

TEE HEE
Are you surprised?
That's a song from the Republic...!?
STRESS
おろ
STRESS
おろ
GLANCE
チョロ
GLANCE
チョロ
What if someone heard you!?
That's music of the enemy!
I used to be in the military band.
I loved singing, and I sang lots of songs!
STRETCH
I also

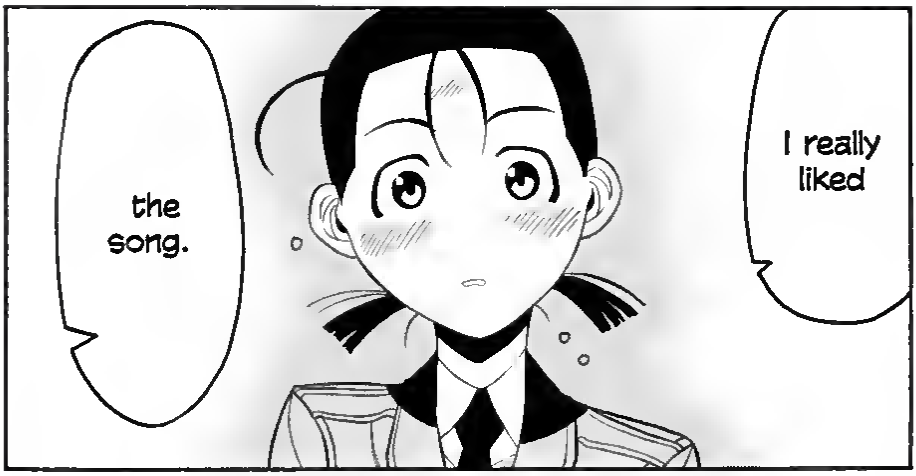
love songs from
the Republic.
The lyrics are cheerful.
STRESS
STRESS
STRESS
STRESS
Because they're songs of the enemy.
TOOT
I wasn't allowed to study them.
I figured if I was in intel-ligence,
I would be able to research what I wanted.
I worked really hard to get here.

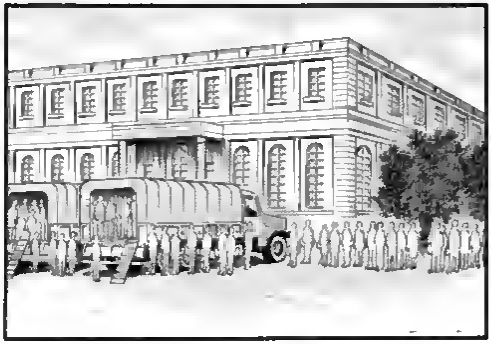
Everyone has really important, personal reasons
for being part of Section III.


There's nothing wrong with think-ing about yourself. In fact,
one must think deeply to become comfortable in one's skin.

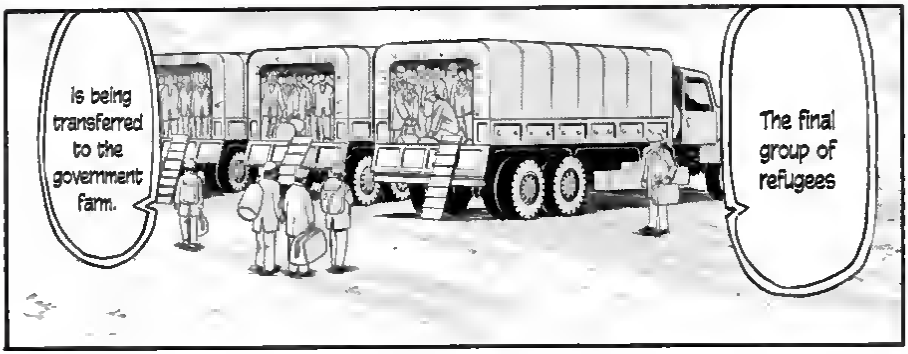
That's what your superior thinks,
Corporal!

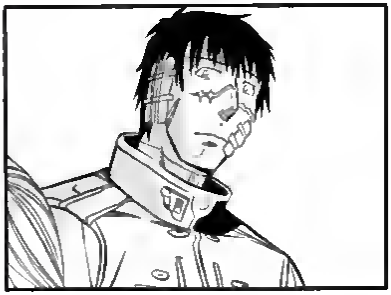
I don't think
I fully understand yet.
RAISE
For the time being,
I'll go apologize to Oreldo.
It's important that I do this.
By the way...
SLIDE
GLANCE
GLANCE
?


I really liked
the song.



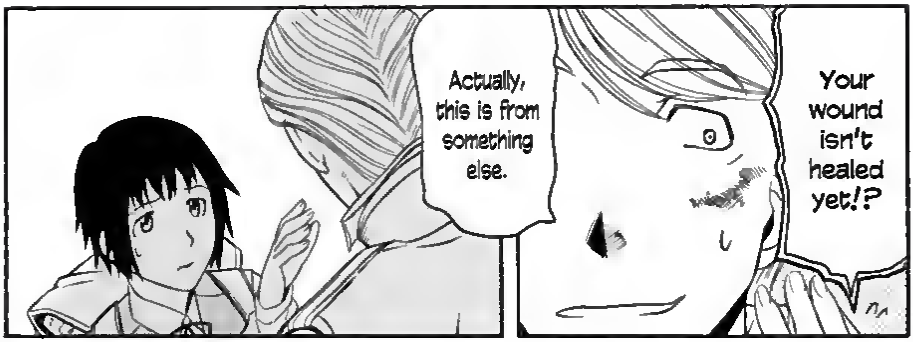
So, today's the day.
TOK

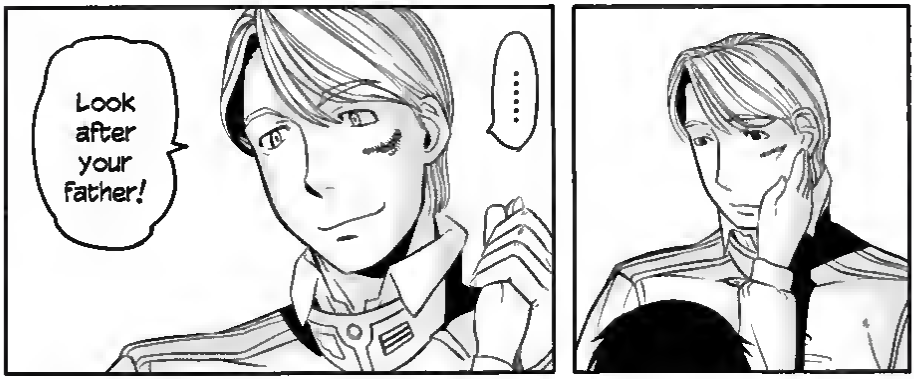

The final group of refugees
is being transferred to the government farm.



After this, there won't be any more room at the farms.

Did you come by to see me off?
Marie!!
Oreldo!
Excuse me Sergeant.

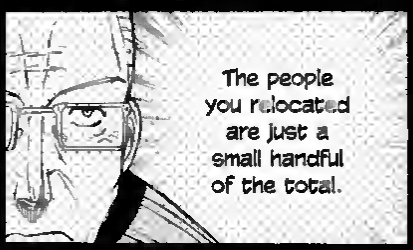

Actually, this is from something else.
Your wound isn't healed yet!?

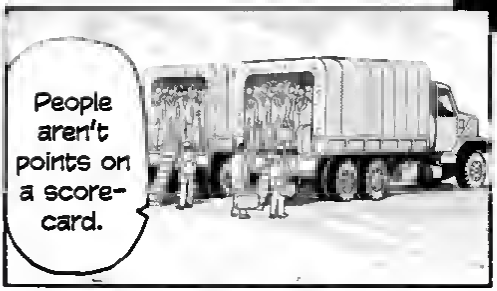

Look after your father!
.....

I was pissed off.
Sorry about what happened at the cafeteria.

NOD
.....

It's a numbers game to some people.
Who you saved, who you couldn't...


The people you relocated are just a small handful of the total.

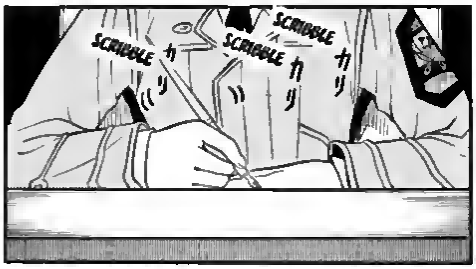

People aren't points on a score-card.

did you fail?
If you could save only one in a thousand,

he was saved but his life doesn't count?
Do you tell the survivor that

I'm done.
Oh well.
I just kept thinking about that.
That means we'll fight again soon enough.
Fine.
I'd still like to save everyone.

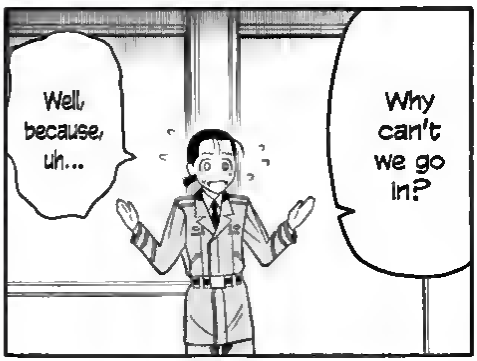
Yes, sir!

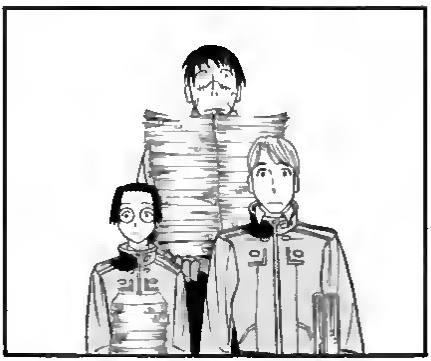

SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE

Ever since that day,
HMM

I wasn't able to do very much.
the corporal seems to be happier.
that everyone is doing better!
NOD
I'm just happy
acting strange...
Actually, Alice has been
Captain Hunks, I have to talk to you.

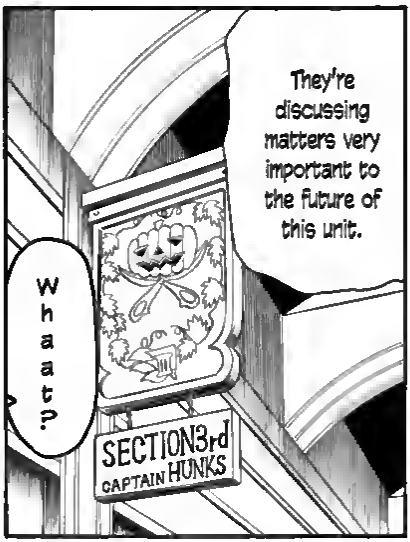
...What?

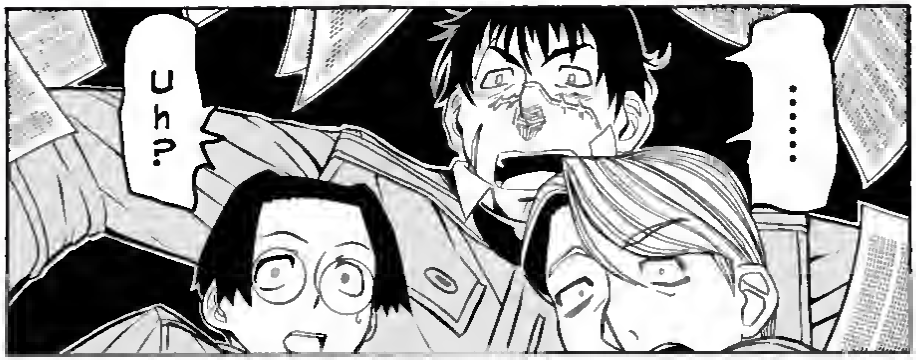

Why can't we go in?
Well, because, uh...



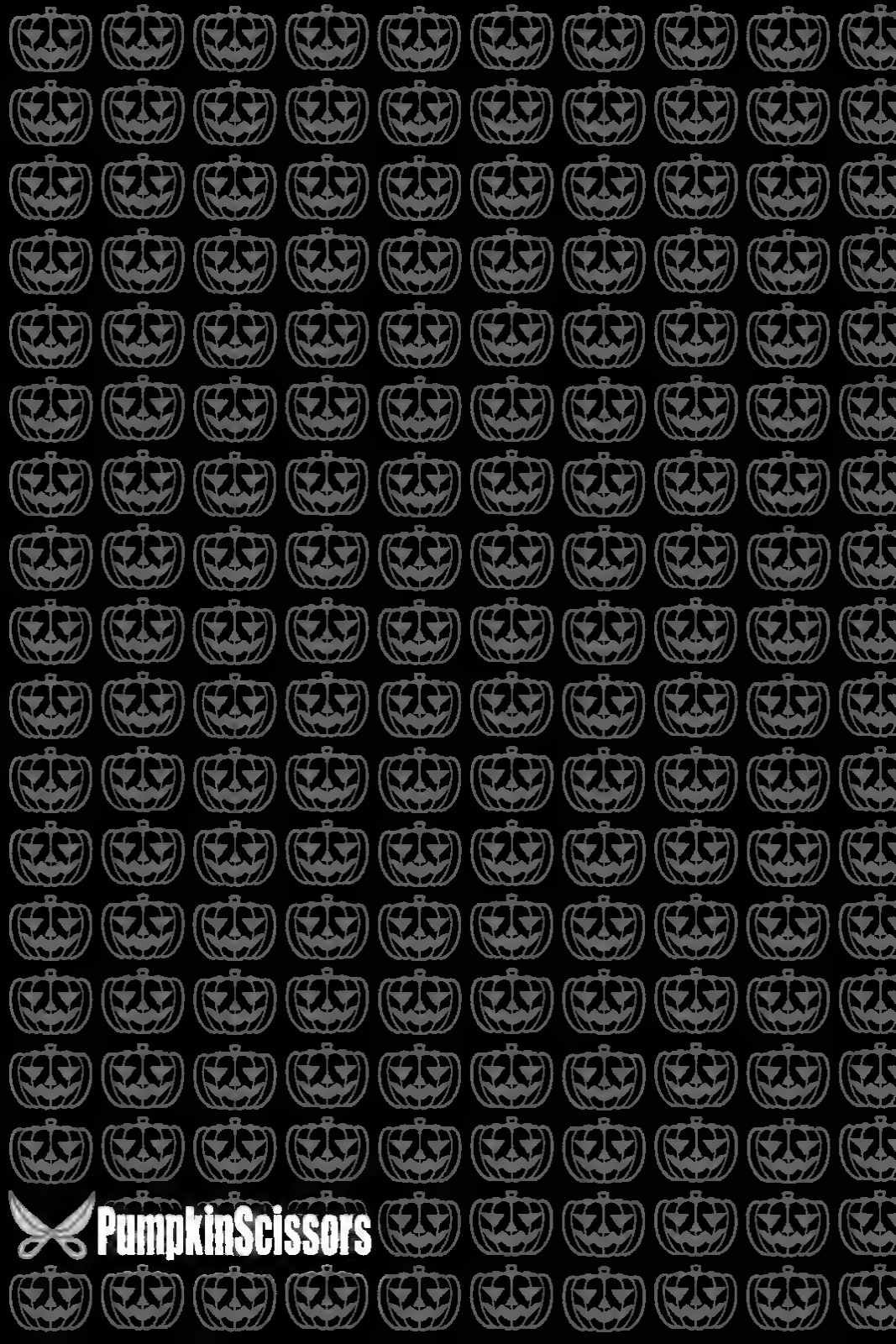
Well...
Uhm...

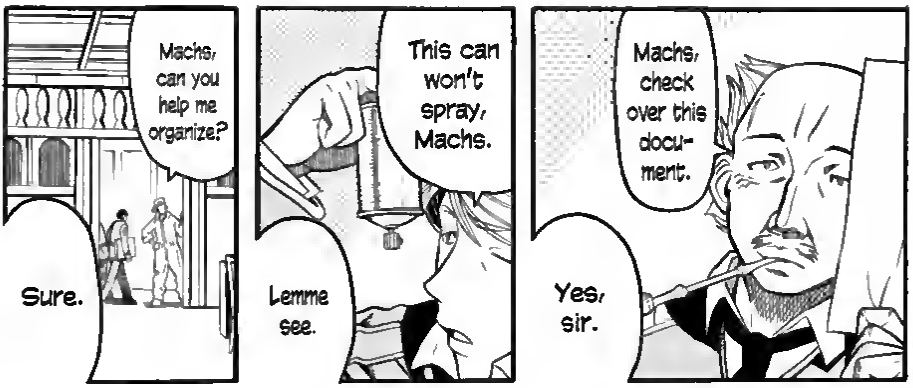
Uh...


They're discussing matters very important to the future of this unit.
Whaat?
SECTION3rd
CAPTAIN HUNKS



#9/ THE END


PumpkinScissors

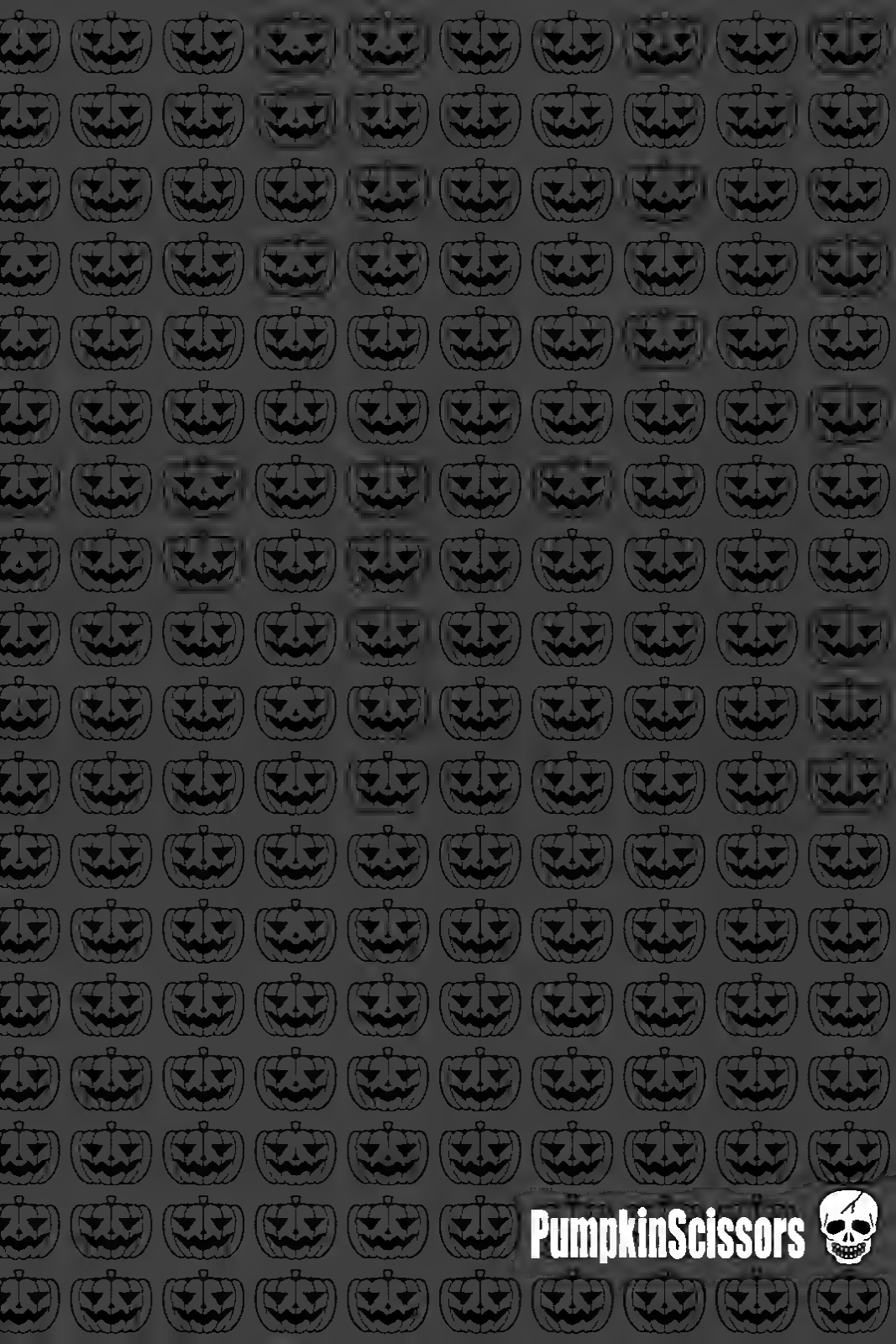

Machs, can you help me organize?
Sure.
This can won't spray, Machs.
Lemme see.
Machs, check over this document.
Yes, sir.

When people ask...No, without being asked, he just completes whatever needs to be done
He's like a mother who you can count on!
He's far more productive than me.
Machs is amazing!

You have to shake the can really well.
I have an announcement!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
JUMP
Oreido is good at being himself...
...!
if I had to describe him...
all by himself!

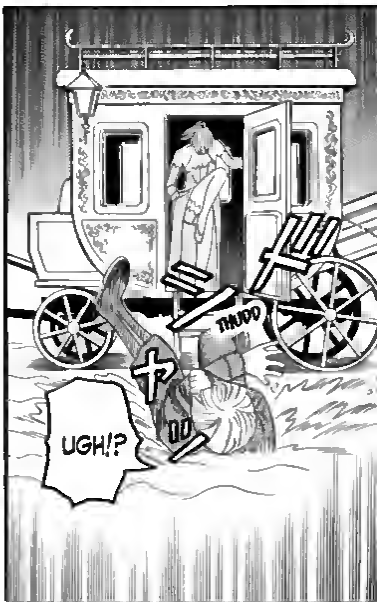
Machs is very good
at playing with himself!
You're number one in the Empire!
YAY!
Yo!
Now, Machs is depressed lately.
Pa-Pa-Pa-Pumpkin!
I don't understand men.

NEXT!


PumpkinScissors

Malvin Residence
My Lady, your coach has arrived.
Thanks. I'll be going now.
JOLT
YOU

Episode 10 Trick in Treat



That's no way for a woman to dress!
Elis, calm down. What
Second Daughter: Elie
Oldest Daughter: Solice
...
PAT
PAT
If you injured dear Alice's face?
She deserves it!

You can't seduce a man with that!
This is a legitimate military garb
Do you know where you're going?
...What?
I have no intention of such a thing!
FASTER
Se-duce.
お……
Ball?
You're going to a ball!

That's perfectly fine.
I thought I would attend this year.
I've turned down previous invitations, but
Yes.

Oh! You're right.

ゴト…
It's just that aristocratic balls are about

ｶﾁｬｷ…

That's one function of the ball.
Various families send their children to find marriage partners.

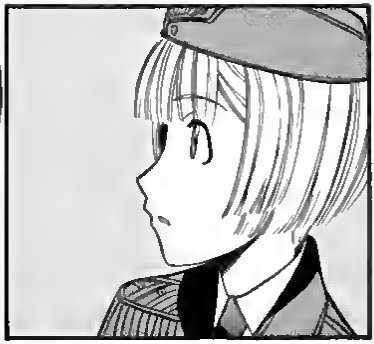
I already have a fiancé.
I'll be marrying him.
CLATTER
Uh...
Uh... m...

Machs, you're his assistant! Make sure nobody slacks off!
Me!?
PASS
Oreldo, you're in charge during my absence!!
You heard me!
KTZ
KTZ
GLANCE
そう…
Your fiance will be there tonight!
What am I running away for?

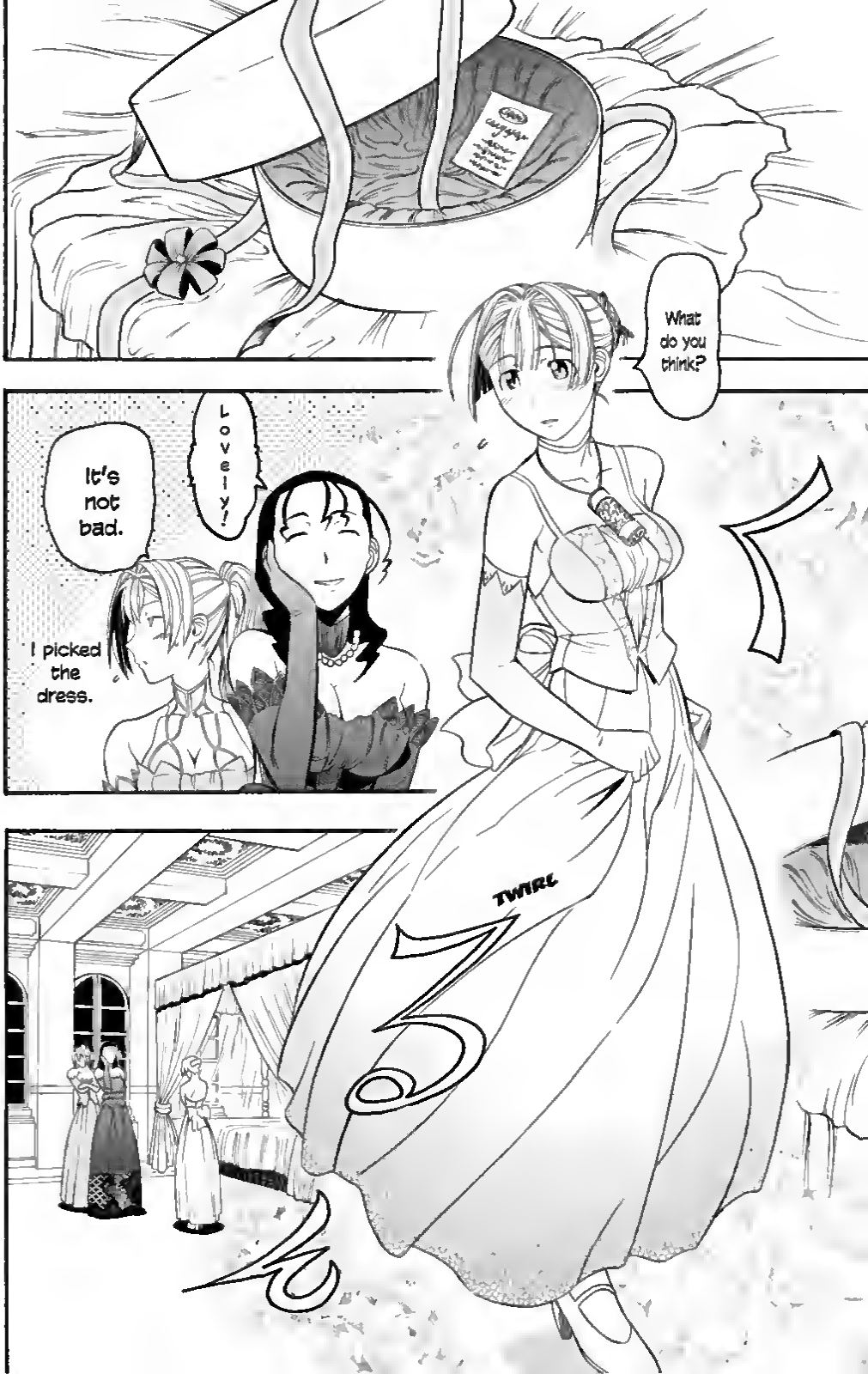
I'm representing the military tradition of the Malvin family!
You're going to change!
Come on!
What if he's sick of your craziness and cancels the engagement?
Please try to understand
But...
That again, you stupid girl!
Elis was excited like a little girl!
She was looking forward to wearing a dress like yours.
Whaaaat!?

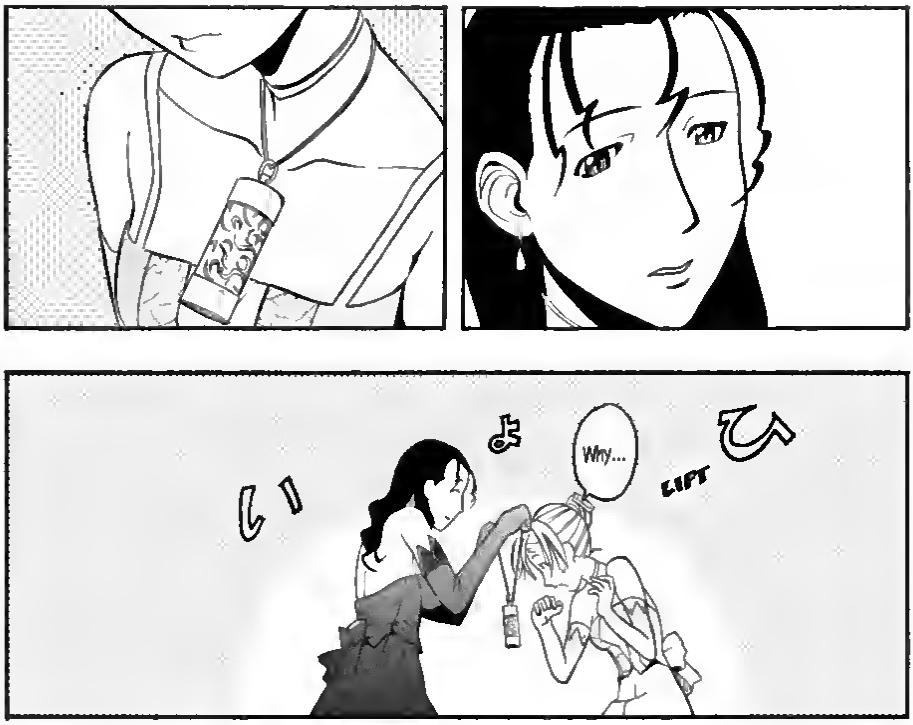
We never attended a party together before.
You only think about work.

I know our family history is important to you.
I'll change.
you don't have to!
If you don't want to,



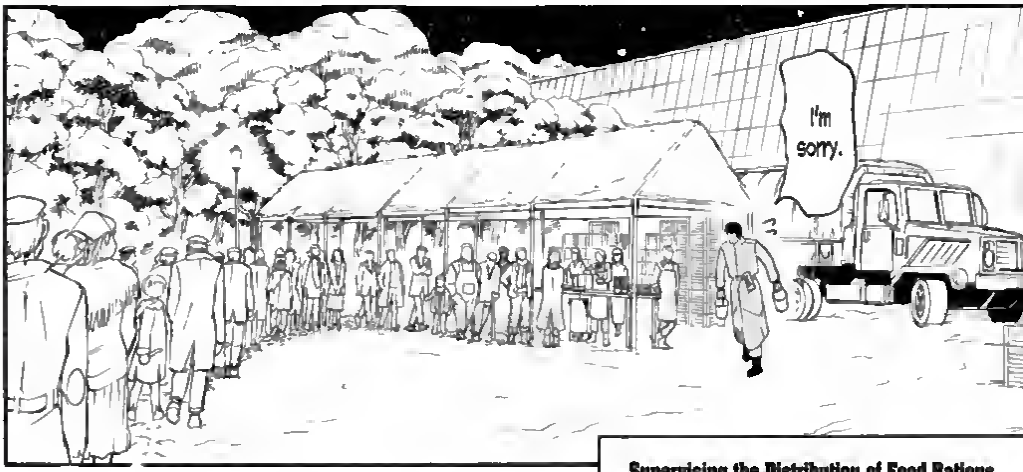
with my sisters.
I'll wear the dress along


What do you think?
Lovely!
It's not bad.
I picked the dress.
TWIRL


Why...
LIFT
You're about to go meet your fiancé.
I doubt mother would have wanted to tag along.
Soiree?
CLATTER

Let's have her watch over her daughters
attending the ball from home.
Sure.
You're a good girl.
TOK
We're off to your debut at the ball!

YOU
Just in case!
CLICK
still don't get it!



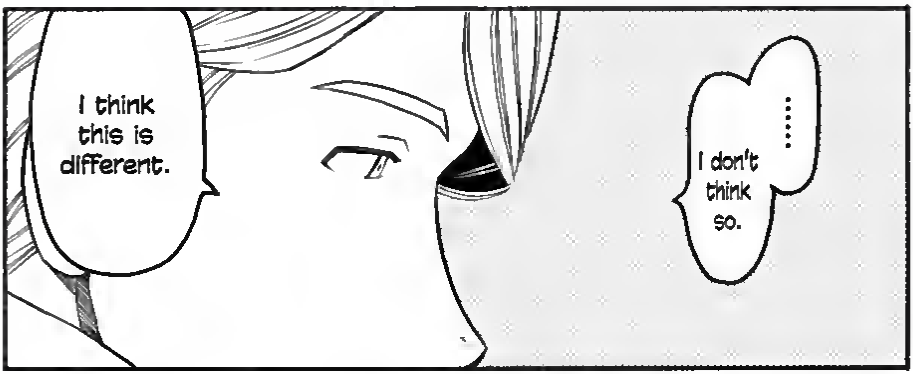
Supervising the Distribution of Food Rations

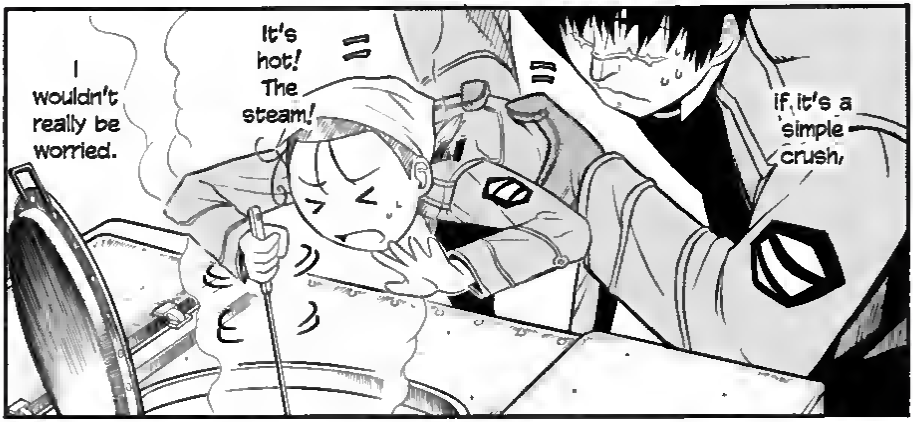
トポ
POUR
ポ
Do you think he's shocked about the lieutenant?

I know, but
It's not like she's getting married tomorrow.

PAUSE
SLIDE

maybe he has feelings for her.


I think this is different.
.....
I don't think so.


I wouldn't really be worried.
It's hot! The steam!
If it's a simple crush,

You bastard!
What the heck?
?
CRASH

Can I do this for you?
In his case, I think it's something very deep.

That's enough.
You've lined up two or three times already!
Don't cut in front of me!

Shut up, Soldier!
Act like adults!
Stop fighting over stupid crap.

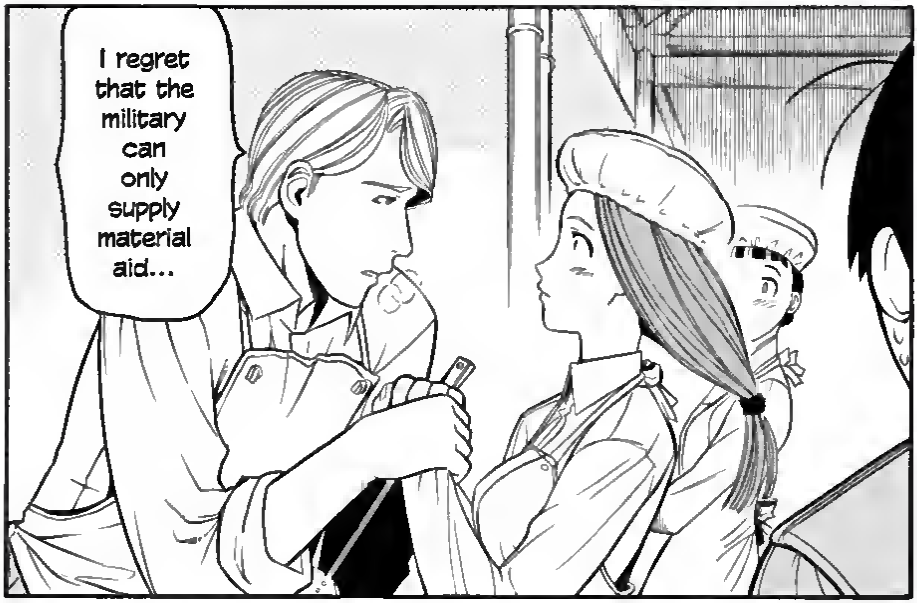
HIT POINT
You're no different from those bastards!
SIGH
You jerks get to eat three square meals a day!

It's like they're rubbing their privilege in our faces while we eat rationed food!
They eat good food and drink fine wine all decked out in fancy clothes.
The friggin' Ball!

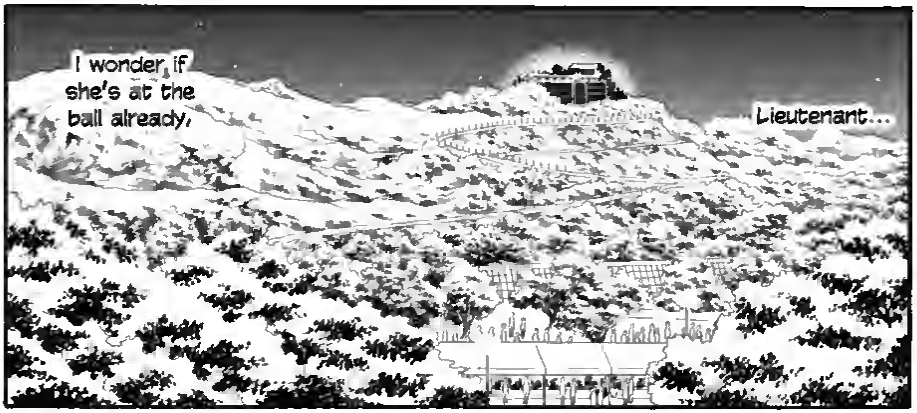
What do you have to say about that?!
Yeah, I'd be pissed, too.
True that...

SILENCE
!
Why don't you go tell them your-self?
Why are you telling me, eh?

My temper flared up. Sorry.
Yeah...
Uh, that's going too far.
That was an odd response?
Yeah.
Are you all right?
We got orders from above that the location was being changed at the last minute.
I can't believe it was the day of the ball. Bad timing...
This is usually done at a different park.


I regret that the military can only supply material aid...

You're quite skilled!
Oh no, you've helped us peel potatoes!
Thanks. I had to peel thousands as punishment.
ROMANCE


I wonder if she's at the ball already.
Lieutenant...

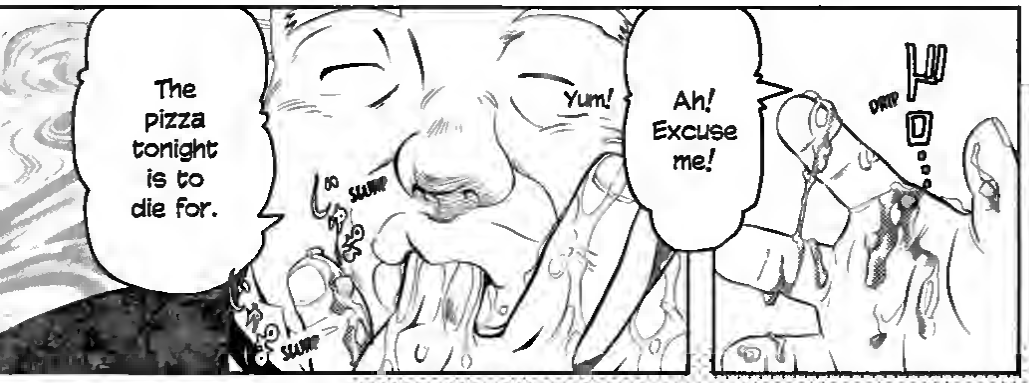
TOK

MURMUR
It's the Malvin sisters!
I hear the two older ladies are already married...
Yes, their husbands' families have asked them to keep their maiden name.
Ah, so people would know they're in-laws of one of the Thirteen Appointed Families?

WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
There's an interesting rumor
The youngest girl is the next successor, right?
It'll pass quickly.
.....
UGH
This attention is so annoying.
They're whispering about us.
すいっ
SCOOT
These beautiful ladies must be the famed Malvin sisters!

はっ HA
ぶわっ PWA
はっ HA
It's rare to see all three of you wearing dresses!
モグ CHOMP
モグ CHOMP
Lord Paulo.
Who are you?
Wha?
He's the Economic Director of the Empire.

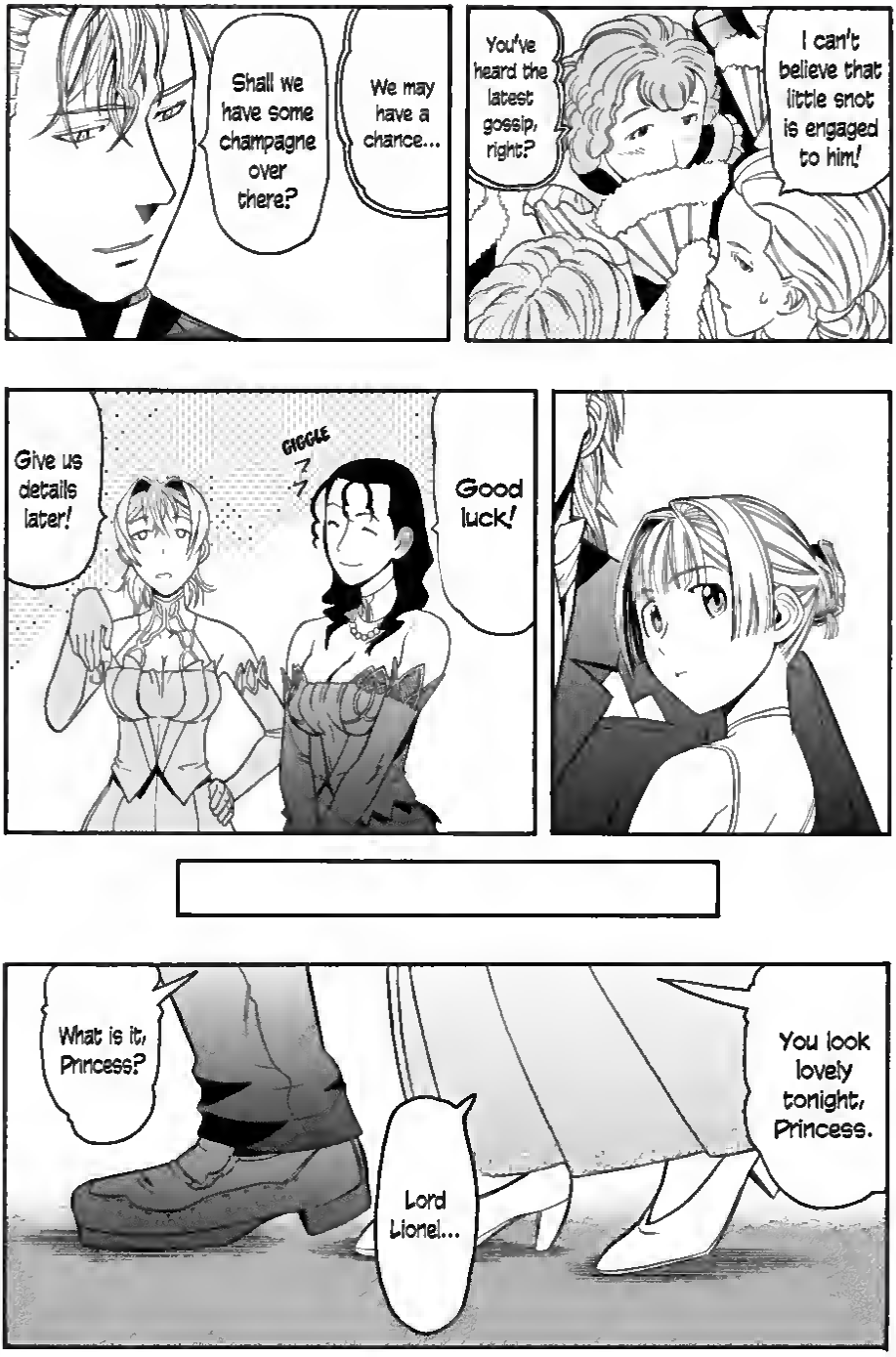
Oh!
Nice to meet you.
It's lovely to meet the next successor.
BWAHAHA
THRUST


The pizza tonight is to die for.
SLURP
SLURP
Yum!
Ah! Excuse me!
DRIP
DRIP

Nice to...
One more time...
RAISE
SLURP

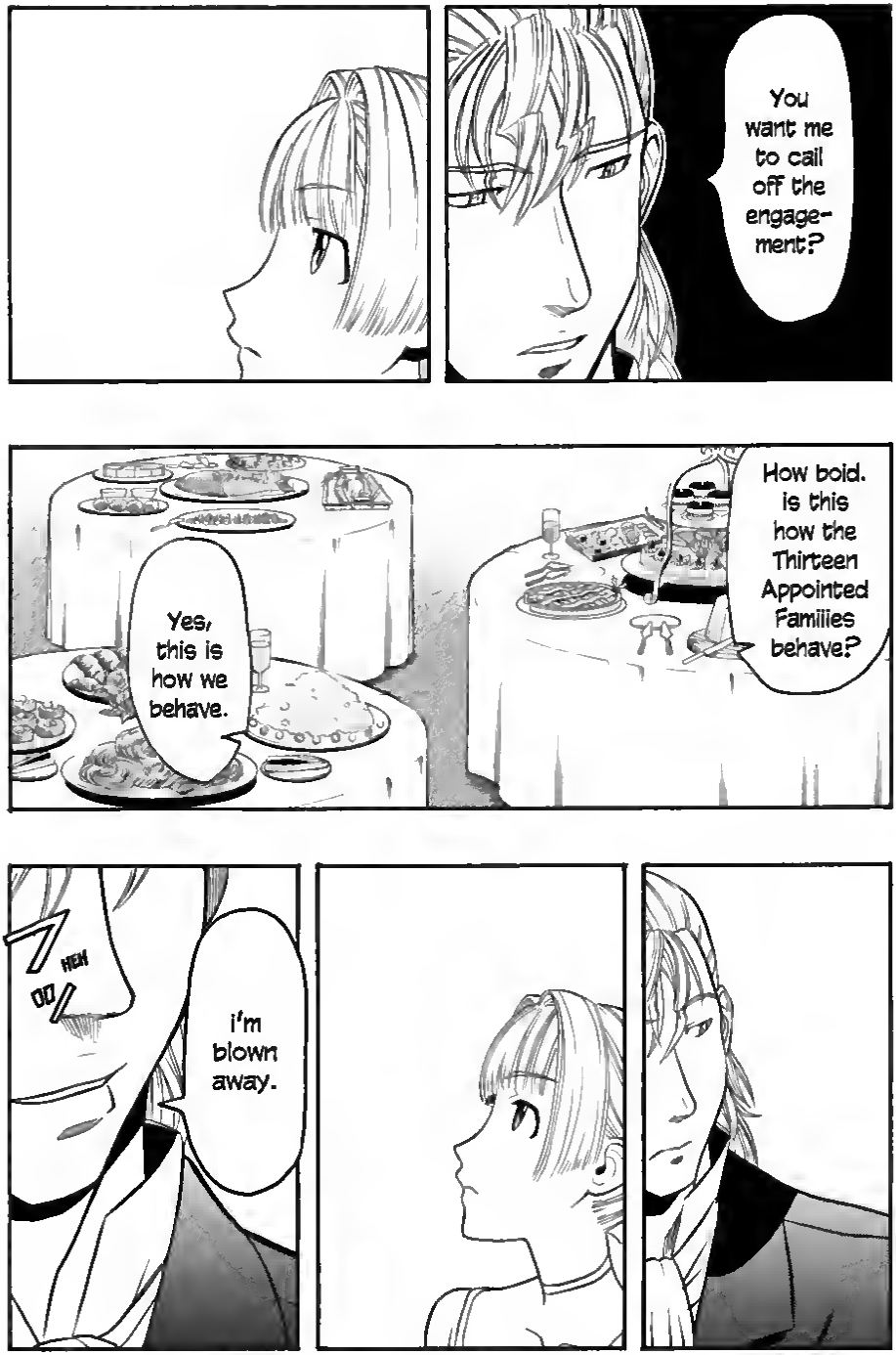
I've caught you,
my Prin-cess.

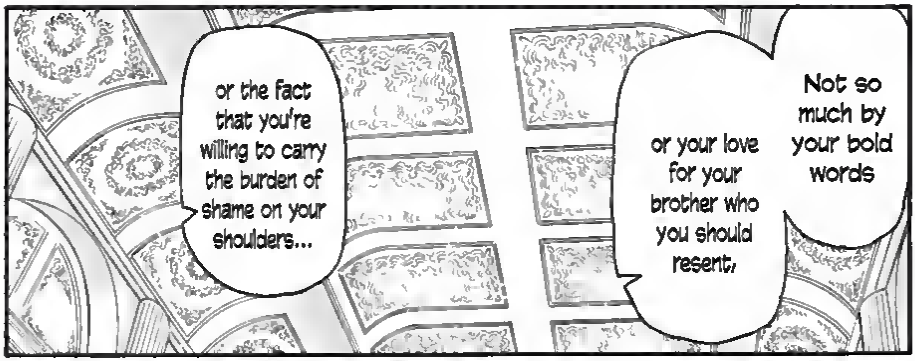
Lord Lionel!
Hey!
Hey!
SWING
SWING
STRETCH
STRETCH
It's Lord Lionel Taylor!
GASP
He's been responsible for three successful business ventures this year!
He's beautiful and successful. He's perfect. ♡
He's the young "Lion" of the financial world.

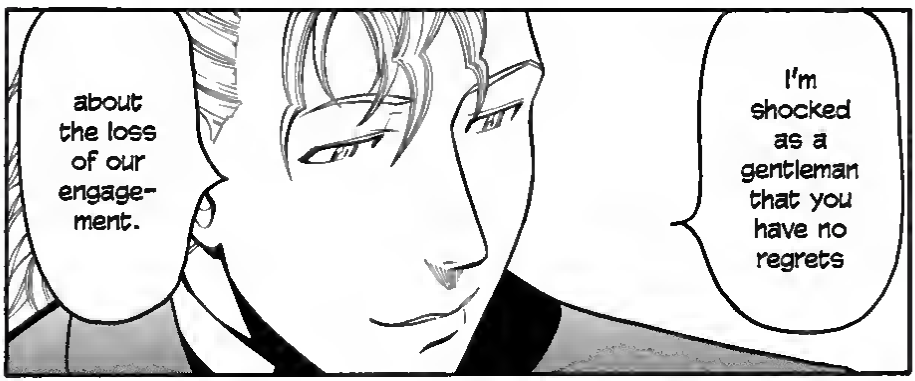

We may have a chance...
Shall we have some champagne over there?
You've heard the latest gossip, right?
I can't believe that little snot is engaged to him!
Good luck!
GIGGLE
Give us details later!
You look lovely tonight, Princess.
Lord Lionel...
What is it, Princess?

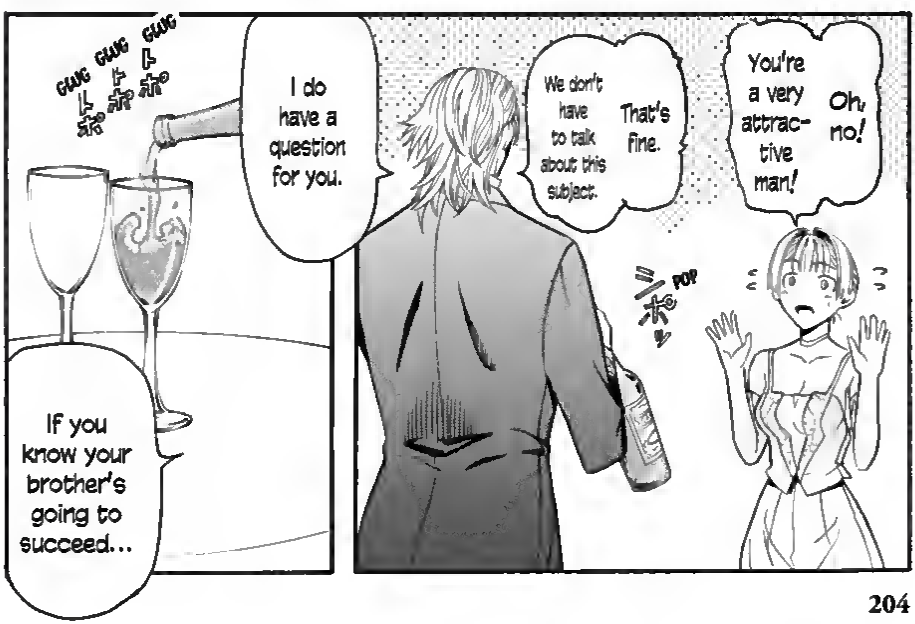
I won't be your princess much longer.
I'm sure you've heard the rumors.
FREEZE
within the next few years.
I, Alice L. Malvin,
will be removed from the line of succes-sion.

He has not made his formal debut yet.
He'll be five soon.
So the rumors about your brother are true.
.....
When my father's current wife gave birth to Allen,
my father made the decision.
When Allen is announced as the successor, the Malvin family will no longer need to invite a groom.
Our marriage will no longer benefit the Taylor family, either.
if we part now, you can still protect your family name.
This is just my opinion, of course.


You want me to call off the engagement?
How bold. Is this how the Thirteen Appointed Families behave?
Yes, this is how we behave.
HEH
I'm blown away.

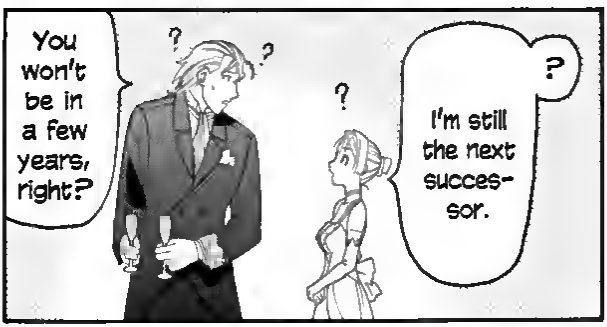

Not so much by your bold words
or your love for your brother who you should resent,
or the fact that you're willing to carry the burden of shame on your shoulders...


I'm shocked as a gentleman that you have no regrets
about the loss of our engage-ment.


GLUG GLUG GLUG
I do have a question for you.
If you know your brother's going to succeed...
We don't have to talk about this subject.
That's fine.
You're a very attrac-tive man!
Oh, no!
POP

Why do you accept the role of the next succes-sor
with so much passion and pride?

Hmmm
?

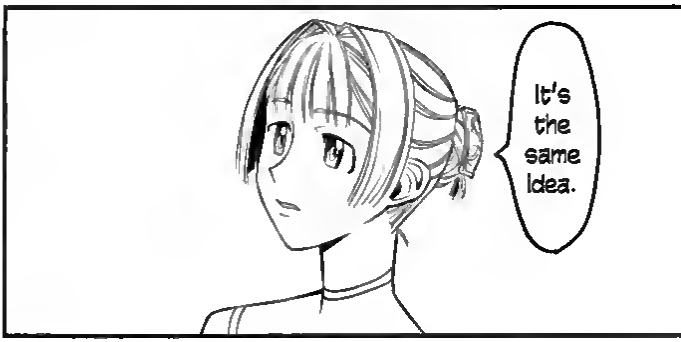

You won't be in a few years, right?
I'm still the next succes-sor.
?
?
?

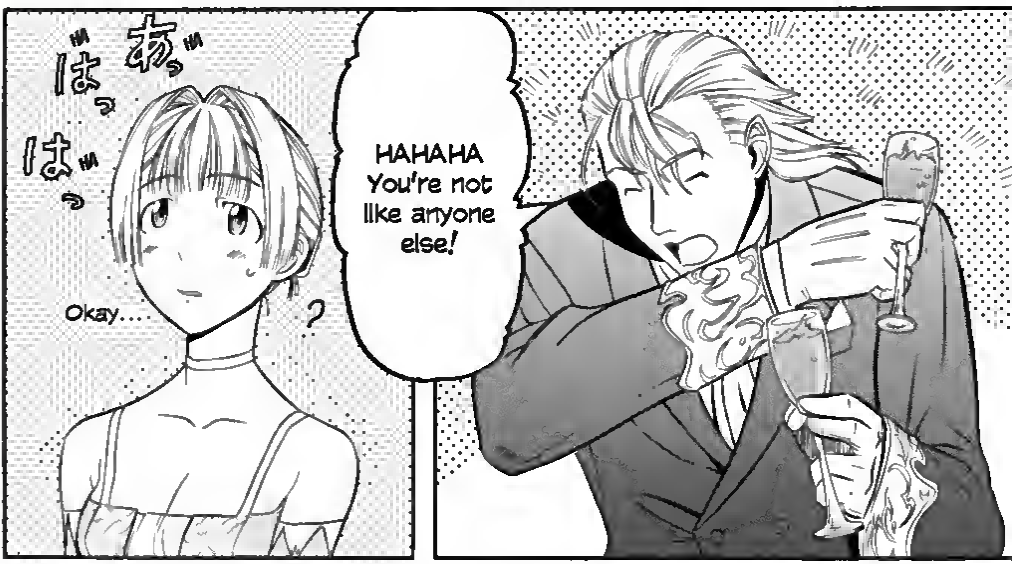
if we only value things that are perma-nent, then
our lives are utterly worthless.

i'm not sure what you're trying to say, but

We'll all die by time, illness, or the sword.
Would you want to die right now?

HA HA


It's the same idea.

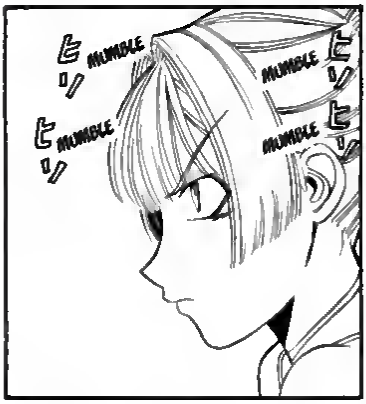

HAHAHA You're not like anyone else!
Okay....?

I won't cancel our engagement.
RAISE
my princess.
In fact, you've strengthened my resolve to make you mine.
Princess.
I want to take care of you.
Honestly...
I don't drink.
KER-ASH

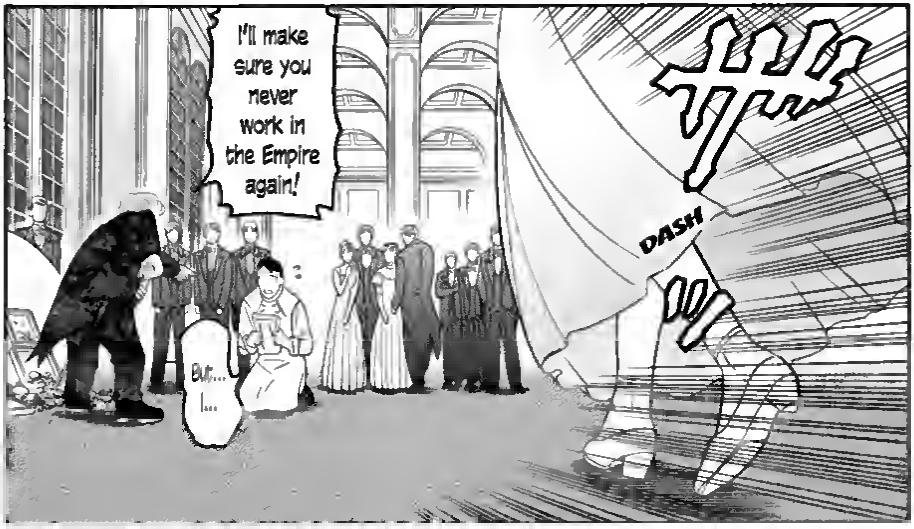
Lord Paulo?
What happened, Lord Paulo?
Such insolence!
The canape was delicious so I asked for the recipe!
We made sure it was appropriately prepared...
We didn't have enough materials.
He said it was made from acorn paste!
Acorn!?

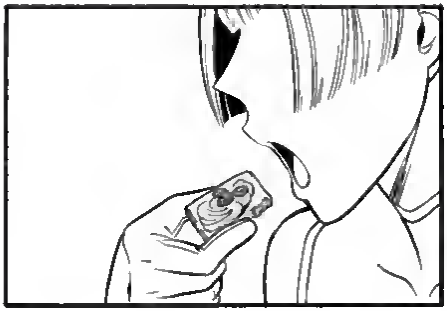
Acorns are for animals!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
ACCK!

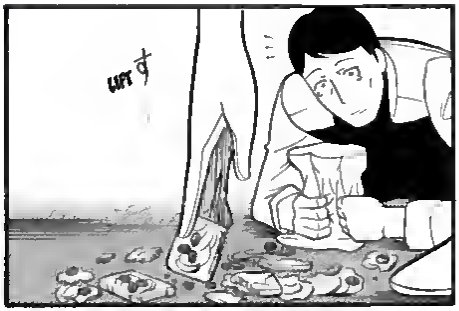
SMASH

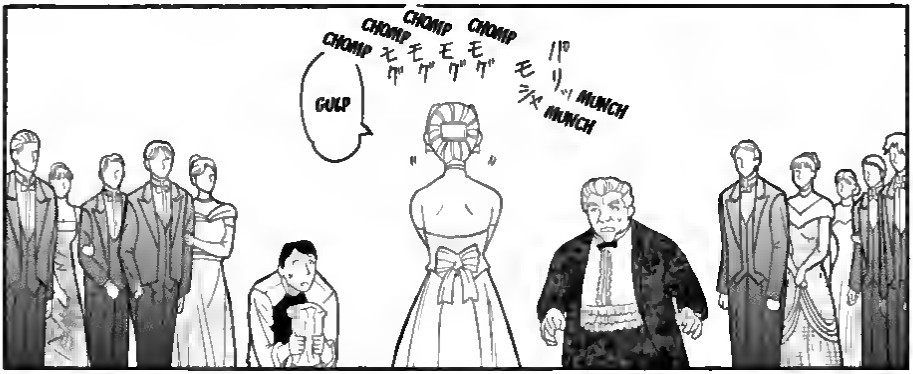

MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE

MUMBLE
MUMBLE
ヒソヒソ
You did, too!
Ugh! You said it was delicious!
Acorn?


I'll make sure you never work in the Empire again!
But...
DASH



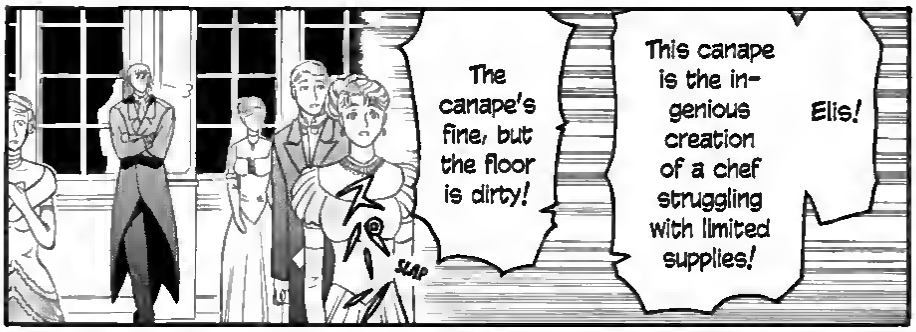

ぷす

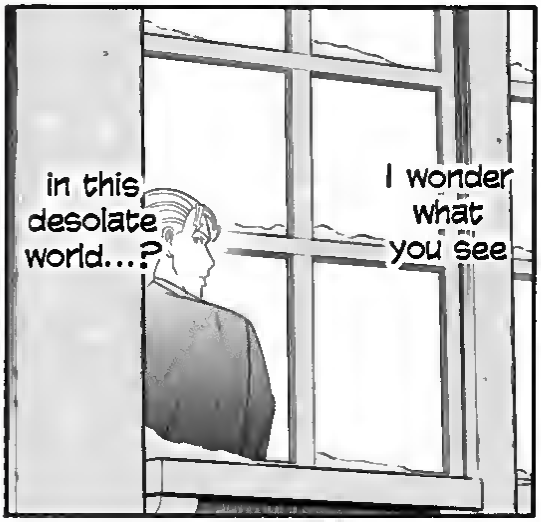

CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
モグモグモグモグ
モリッ
MUNCH
MUNCH
GULP

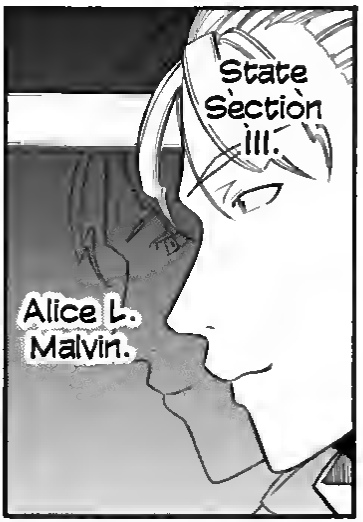
You...

Perfect! You can work for my family.
It's very exqui-site!

You shouldn't eat food off the floor, dear.
SLAPP
You idiot!


The canape's fine, but the floor is dirty!
SLAP
This canape is the ingenious creation of a chef struggling with limited supplies!
Elis!

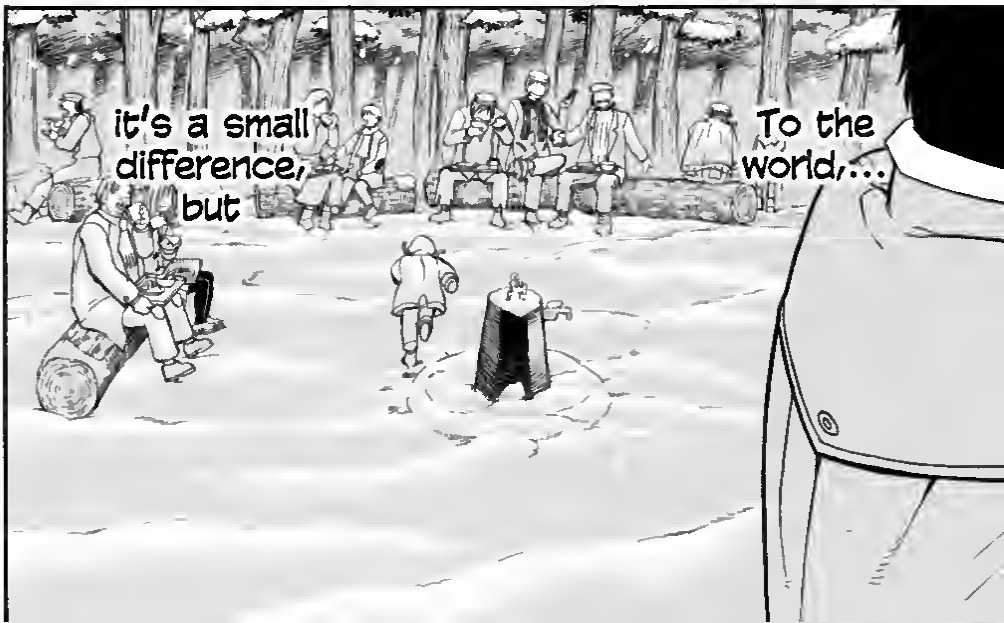

I wonder what you see in this desolate world...?


State Section III.
Alice L. Malvin.

Good work!
We're done!
CLANG

STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP

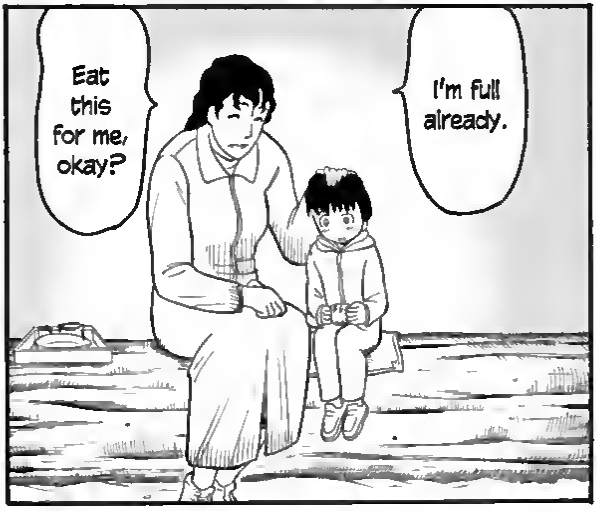
Go tell Stecchin we're done.
Big guy!
Yes, sir.


it's a small difference, but
To the world,...

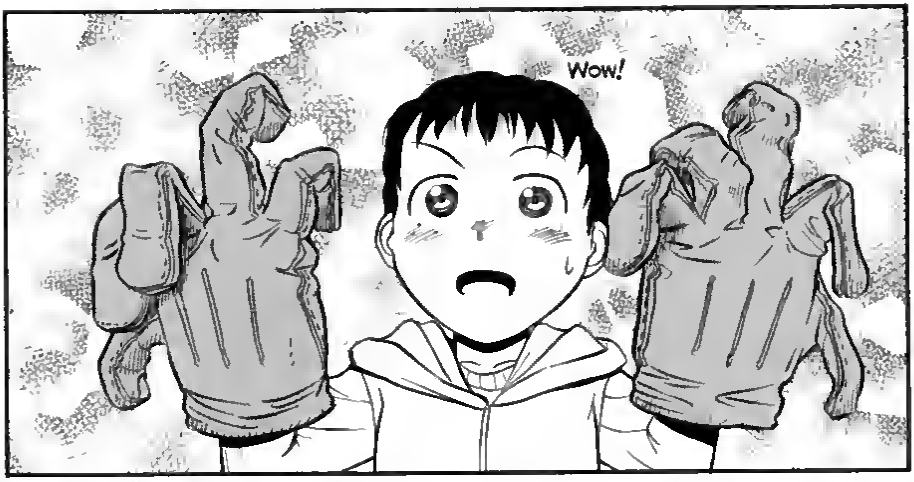
Mom, you're not going to finish this?

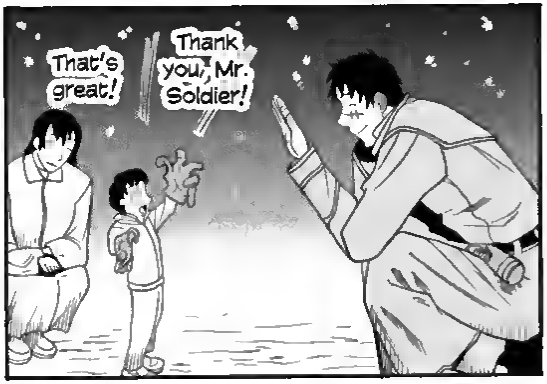
you've done your part to help...
with relief and reconstruction!

CHOMP
CHOMP


Eat this for me, okay?
I'm full already.

HUFF
My fingers hurt from the cold!

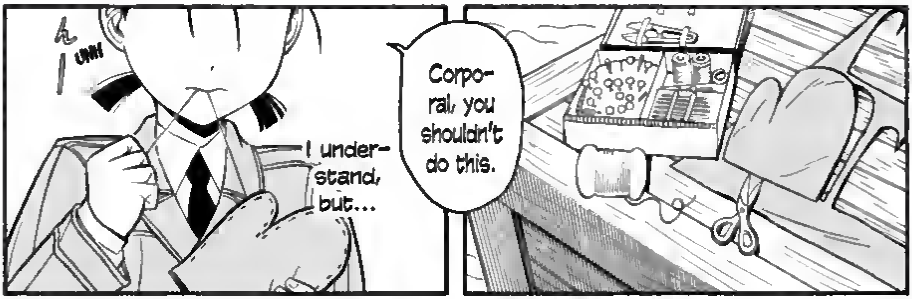

Wow!

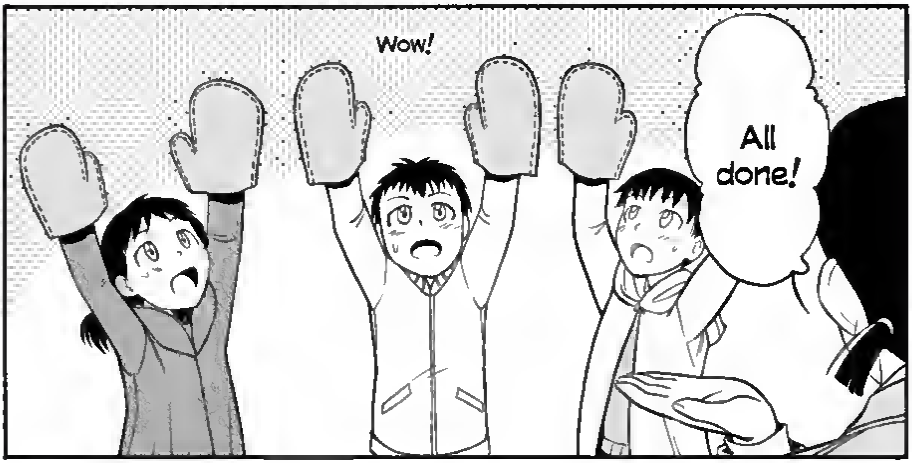

That's great!
Thank you, Mr. Soldier!

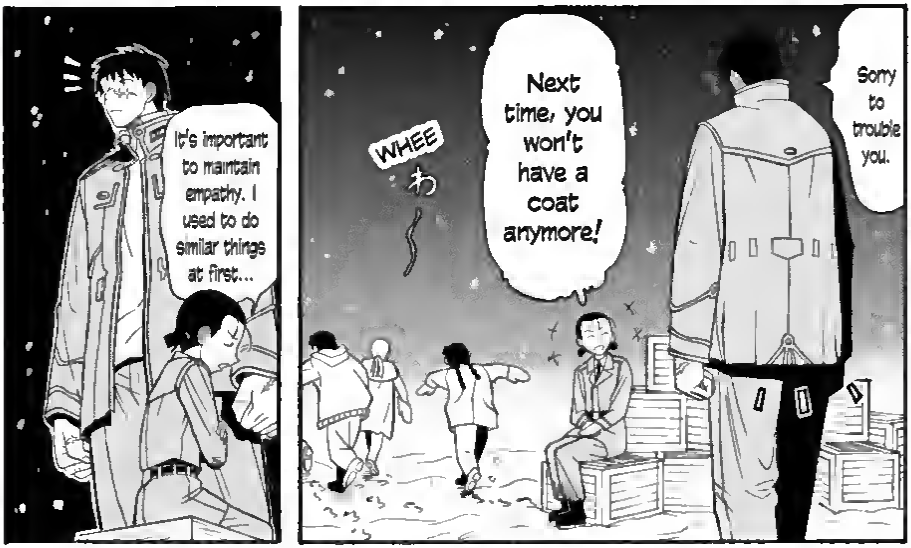
TUG
TUG
メョーン
メョーン

GRIP
Yes!

Whoa!!
STARE
Help me!
I wonder if there's any left for Merc.
DRAG
DRAG
What should I do...?

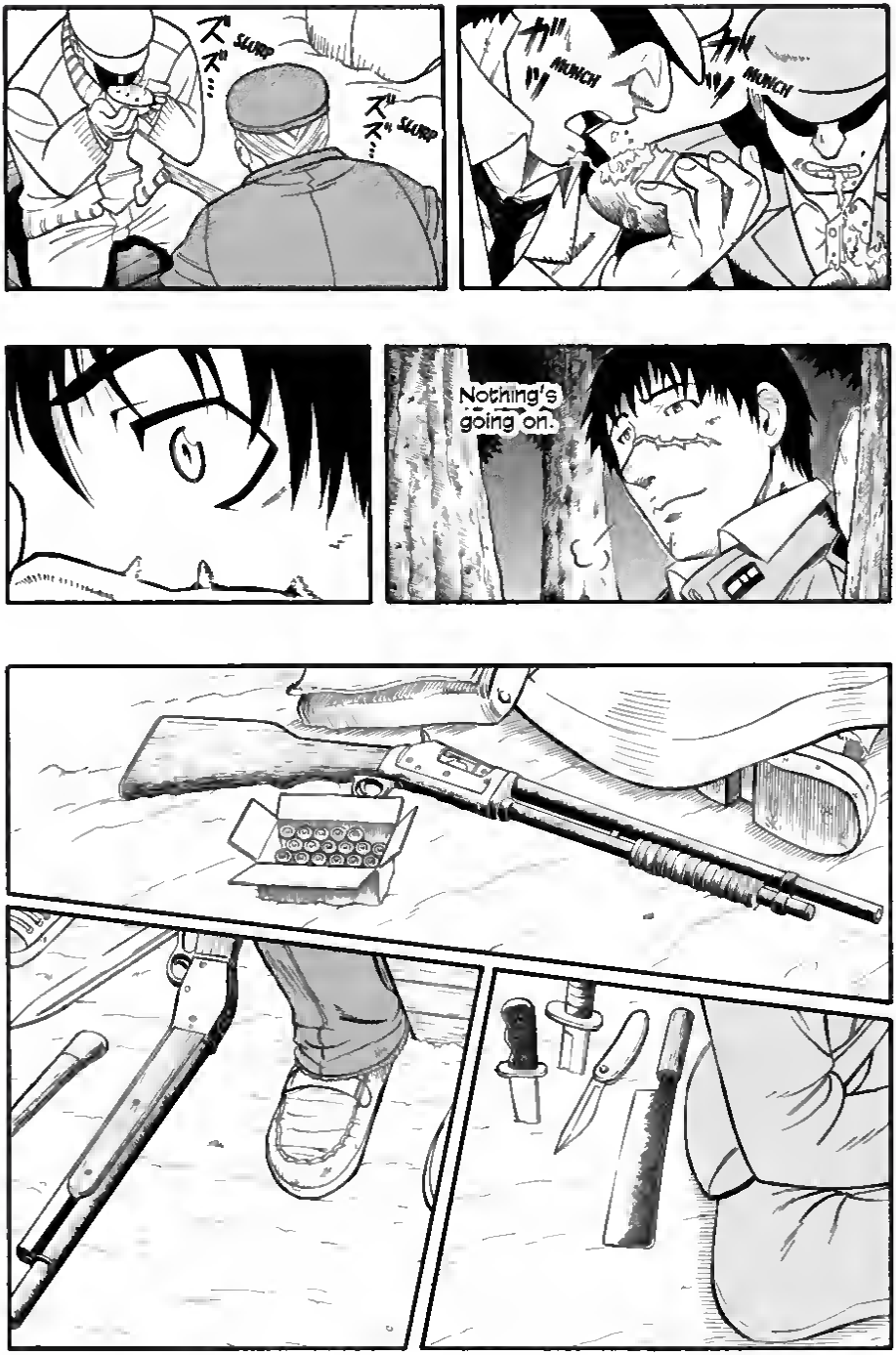

Corporal, you shouldn't do this.
I understand, but...


Wow!
All done!


It's important to maintain empathy. I used to do similar things at first...
WHEE
わ
Next time, you won't have a coat anymore!
Sorry to trouble you.

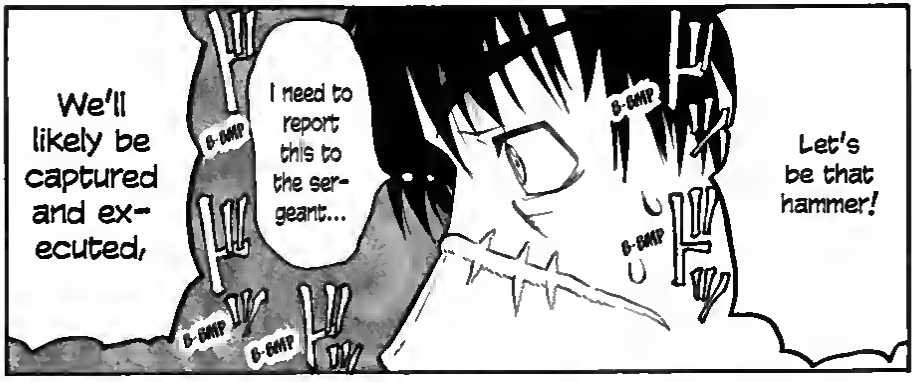
WHISPER
WHISPER
That doesn't mean...
Corporal!?
FWHOOO
What am I doing?
Am I expecting some kind of action?
Do I want to some kind of recognition?
Prove my worth?
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

after Lieutenant leaves the unit one day...
Prove that I can continue
JOLT


ズズ… SLURP
ズズ… SLURP
MUNCH
MUNCH
Nothing's going on.

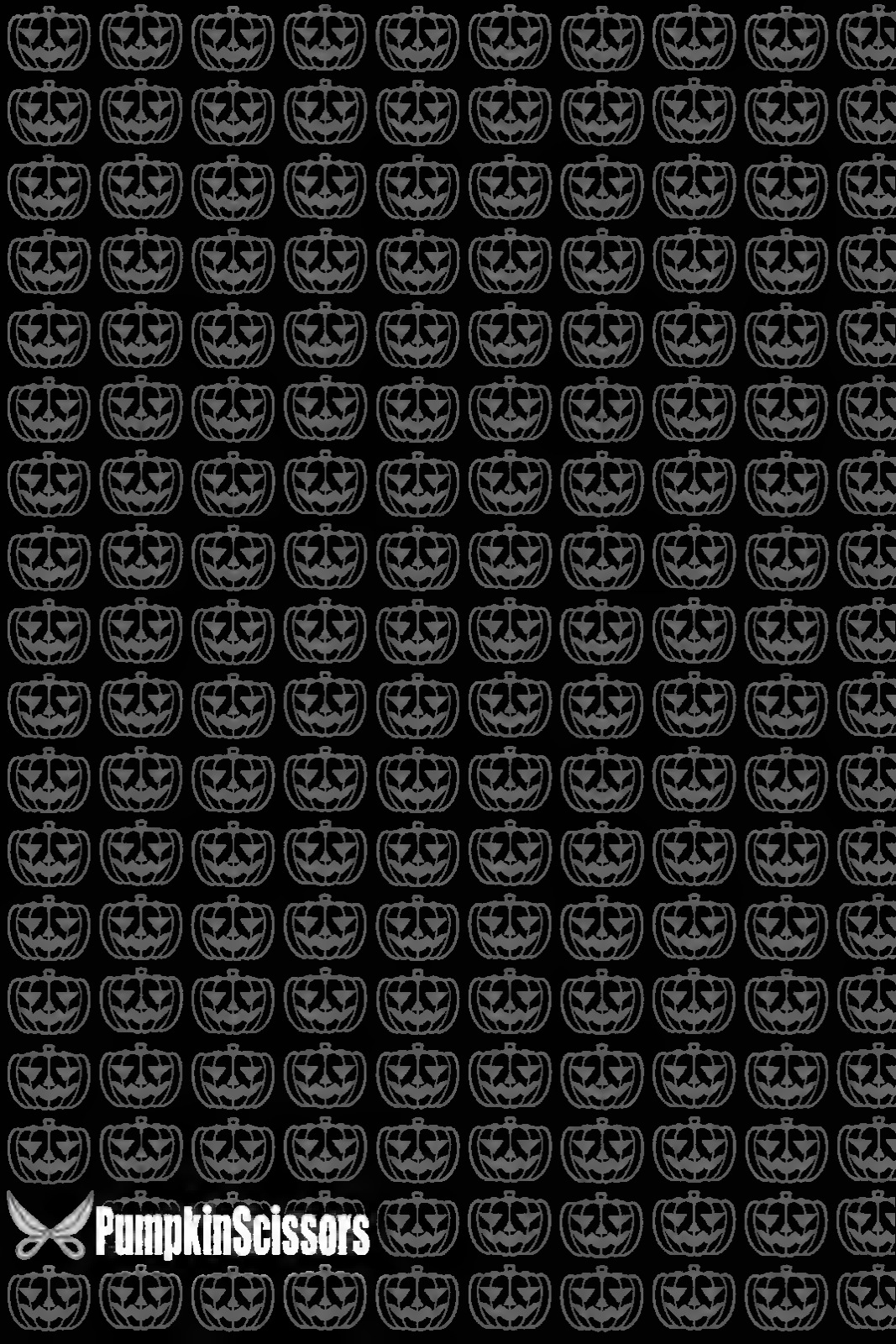
Men!
Have you enjoyed your last supper?
STAND
We've gotta do something!!
Yeah! I made up my mind when I saw those lights for the ball!
This is proof that Lord Paulo's been embezzling money!
We have the documents from an accomplice!
THRUST

We have to strike!
That's not enough!
By morning, the media should receive this information!


We'll likely be captured and executed,
I need to report this to the sergeant...
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
Let's be that hammer!

but we must make that initial strike.
GULP

#10/ THE END


PumpkinScissors

We received a message from our informer at *The Nation*, the capital newspaper.
Documents that prove Lord Paulo's been embezzling from the government?
SECTION 1
MAJOR CONNERY
We need to control this information!
Raid all media outlets in the capital.
Yes, sir.
Confiscate similar envelopes. You have permission to open them!!
Deploy both Axe Four and the police!
Where is Lord Paulo right now?
He's at the ball, sir.
Shall we send an escort?

This is brilliant.
The Economics Department has a powerful influence on the commoners. It's impossible to get information from them.
How did they gain access to these papers?
That knowledge is far more important than Lord Paulo's life.
We just need to arrest the perp at the end.
Pass on the escort. Instead, lock down that area.
If the Lord was murdered, we could
SNEER
get the most juice out of the perps.

See You Next Time!

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

MÄHNE, PAGE 67

Mähne, the name of Alice's weapon, means crest or mane in German.

SHOTEL, PAGE 133

A shotel is very similar in shape to the scimitor or sickle. It wos developed in Abyssinio. The weopon's double-edged blode is obout forty inches long. It wos used to hook opponents, piercing vitol orgons in the process.

Arranged Marriage, page 168

Alice is engoged to be morried to Lionel Toylor. From the context, it oppeors her engagement is on orranged politicol morriage. Historicolly, arronged morrioges, especiolly amang the oristocracy, were the norm. The mojority of morrioges omong the oristocrocy were similor to business tronsoctions, conducted in order to increose property, inheritonce, power, ond politicol power. Loving marrioges were more often incidentol, and love wos not the main purpose to marriage. Marrioges based an love were more comman omong the lower closses thot did not hove property or power to be goined through morrioge.

BALL, PAGE 176

A ball is a farmal sacial dance. Balls are aften an activity af the nability ar upper class. In papular culture, balls are assaciated with finding marriage partners—this example, in papular culture can be seen in fairy tales like Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and Swan Lake. That idea is alsa reflected in Alice's thaughts an page 176. Hawever, it was very camman far marriages ta be arranged in advance while the future marriage partners were still children, years befare they wauld meet in persan. Dress cades are usually strictly enfarced. Wamen are expected ta wear farmal, flaar-length ballgawns. Alice wearing her military garb is in line with her character, but wauld be considered an inapprapriate chaice af apparel far the accasian. In this cantext, Alice's sister's extreme reactian ta Alice's military garb is understandable.